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# INDEX OF CONTENTS TO THE VOLUME FOR 1852.

- Adam Graeme of Mossgray, 487  
Adam on Policy of Retaliation, 695  
Adolphe Renouard, by Ward, 1424  
Adorno's Introduction to Harmony of Universe, 1177  
Adventures of a Bear, 1425  
Africa, Central Expedition to, 18; Letter from Dr. Barth, 32; Letter from Mr. Petermann, 113; The Source of the Nile—Letter from Dr. Beke, 198; News of Dr. Barth and Overwey, 1297  
African Wanderings, by Ferdinand Werne, 770  
Agular's Days of Bruce, 819  
Ait's Life and Works of Moir, 572  
Aiton's Lands of the Messiah, &c., 1175  
Alastor, 773  
Albemarle's (Lord) Lord Rockingham, 103, 195, 218  
Alfred (King) Life of, by Dr. Pauli, 139; Trans., 628  
Algeria, Residence in, by Madame Prus, 539  
Alice Learmont, 49  
Alice Offly, 456  
Alice Rivers, 300  
Alison's (Sir A.) History of Europe, Vol. I., 1287, 1326  
Alison's Second Reformation—The Future, 380  
Allen (William), Memoir of, by J. Sherman, 253  
Allerton and Dreux, 80  
Almanacs, &c., for 1852: Almanac for Algeria, 15; American—The Scottish Temperance League Register—Who's Who in 1852?—Legh's Ombrological—Deane's Illustrated—Post Magazine—Churchman's Year Book, 81; Thom's Irish Almanac—Dod's Peerage—Foster's Pocket Peerage—Webster's Royal Red Book—London and Provincial Medical Directory—Amateur's and Artist's Companion—1853—Almanac—Norton's Literary Almanac, 112. For 1853: Vacher's Parliamentary Companion, 644, 1177; Punch's Pocket Book, 1305; Pausanias—Fulcher's—Gardener's—Oliver and Boyd's Threepenny—Zadkiel's—Raphael's, 1267; The British and Companion, 1390; Dietrichson & Hannay's—Letts's—Bolton—Rees's Improved Diary—Manchester Examiner and Times, 1391  
Amari's Solwan, 1238  
America as I Found It, 820  
America in Forty-eight Hours, by Brown, 1295  
America (N.), Rambles, &c., by Sullivan, 1060  
American Farmer, Walks and Talks in England, 403  
American Revolution, Hist. by Bancroft, 189, 220, 1231  
Amy Paul, 724  
Andersen's Danish Legends and Faery Tales, 82  
Anglican Reformers, Theology of, 324  
Animals, Natural History of, by Jones, Vol. II., 1237  
Animals, Passions of, by Thompson, 42  
Anna Hammer, trans. by Guernsey, 1327  
Annette, by Deacon, 1003  
Annual of the Two Worlds, 1175  
Anti-Jacobin, Poetry of, by Edmonds, 724  
Appellate Jurisdiction, Scotch Appeals, 772  
Approach to the Altar, 844  
Archæology: Mummy at New Houses of Parliament, 116; Tapping's Chronicle of Edward Manlove, 169; Thomas & Kempis, 579; Hunter's Robin Hood, 719; Excavations at Lyme, 865; Badham's All Saints' Church, Sudbury, 870; Archæological Institute at Newcastle, 943; Hussey's Notes on Churches in Kent, 1206; Sussex Archæological Collections, Vol. V., 937; Surrey Archæological Society, 1149; Irish Antiquities, 840, 874, 1151  
Archer's Prize, The, 17  
Arctic Expeditions: Arctic Journal, Stray Leaves, by Osborn, 697; Illustrated Arctic News, by Osborn and Mac Dougall, 514; Isabel Schooner Expedition, 725, 900, 1200; Gossip, 612, 677, 1016, 1244; Boat Expedition, Hudson's Bay Company, 1329; Baffin's Bay and Polar Basin, Letter from Mr. Petermann, 1358; News of the Flower, 1206; Lieut. Pim, 53, 280; Mr. Petermann's Plan, 82 [see also 697, 1016, 1245]; Despatches from Commander Moore, 115; The Late Sledge Expedition, 169, 254; Capt. Penny's Letter to the Lords Commissioners, 375, 381; Blue Book, 338; Dr. Rae's Expedition, 355, 381; Mr. Grinnell, 361; Capt. Beaton's Report, 393; Mr. Coward's Rumour, 431, 457, 631; Papers and Despatches relative to the Expeditions of 1850-1-2, by Mangles, 487; Sir E. Belcher's Instructions, 578; Sutherland's Voyage, 888; The Prince Albert, 1118 [see also Letter from Capt. Ommanney, 1154]; 1181; Letter from Son of an Officer, 1212  
Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, by Fitzgerald, 513  
Arithmetic, by Lady Verney, 353  
Arné, Is Everyone Responsible, 324  
Art and Nature under Italian Sky, by M. J. M. D., 541  
Arthur's (T. S.) Woman's Trials, 198; Fanny Dale, 404; Agnes the Possessed, 1145  
Arthur's (W.) Successful Merchant, 41  
Artistic Anatomy, Manual of, by Knox, 935  
Arvine's Moral and Religious Anecdotes, by Flisher, 18; Anecdotes of Literature and Fine Arts, 795  
Asiatica, by Ph. H. Gosse, 887 [see also 1123]  
Assyrian and Babylonian Chronology, by J. W. Bosanquet, 404, 944; Inscriptions, Dr. Hincks on, 26, 466, 894; Letter from Hibernicus, 363; Discoveries, 490; Letter from Memnon, 1123  
Astronomy, Physical, by Grant, 424  
Atlantic and Transatlantic Sketches, Mackinnon's, 818  
Audin's Life of Henry the Eighth, by Browne, 942  
Aunt Effie's Rhymes for Children, 82  
Australia: Voice from, by Boyd, 890; Three Colanies, by Sidney, 965, 996; Discoveries of Gold, by Erskine, 17 [see also 145, 226-7]; Caution and Advice to Emigrants, 328; Emigration Movement, 654; 772  
Austria in 1848-9, by W. H. Stiles, 817  
Babylonian Chronology, by J. W. Bosanquet, 404, 944  
Badham's All Saints' Church, Sudbury, 870  
Baffin's Bay: see Arctic Expeditions  
Baga de Secretis, ed. by Sir F. Palgrave, 533, 570  
Bagh o Bahar, trans. by Eastwick, 1238  
Bailey's (S.) Discourses, 379  
Balbo's Dante, trans. by Bunbury, 861  
Balloon Ascent, Scientific, 873; Letter from J. Welsh, 894; 897, 920 [see also 1011, 1272]  
Baly's Baths and Washhouses, 1357  
Bancroft's American Revolution, 189, 220, 1231  
Barker's Beauty of Flowers, 404  
Barnes's Throne of Iniquity, 1240  
Barron's British Winter Garden, 724  
Bateman on Revenue Sliding Rule, 675  
Battles of the Bible, 428  
Baxter's Tagus and Tiber, 349  
Baydon's Annals of Christian Church in Metre, 541  
Beardmore's Hydraulic Tables, 917  
Beatrice, by Miss Sinclair, 1064  
Beauchesne's (De) Louis the Seventeenth, 1232  
Beauty of Amalfi, 844  
Beck (Baroness Von), 578; Motion in House of Lords, 629; Letter from Bachhaus, 653, 701; Constant Derra's Trial, 846; Toulmin Smith's Facts of the Case, 869  
Beck's Lays from Home, 1327  
Bell's (A. M.) Steno-Phonography, 917  
Bell's (Evans) Task of To-day, 379  
Bell (J.) on the Four Primary Sensations, 749  
Bell's (W.) Shakespeare's Puck, 1055  
Ben Rhydding, Memorials from, 113  
Bentley's Railroad Library, 113  
Bertolacci's Voice for all Subjects, 113  
Berzelius, Autobiography of, from Mr. Wilson, 973  
Bible, D'Oyley and Mant's Notes, Part I., 772  
Birt's Sailor's Guide, 516  
Bishop's Astronomical Observations, 870  
Blackie on Study, &c. of Languages, 456  
Blake (Robert), by Hepworth Dixon, 345  
Blanc's (Louis) French Revolution, 422 [see also 517]  
Bleak House, by Dickens, 270 [see also 382]  
Blenkinsop (Dr.), Memoirs of, 1294  
Bliss's Ideas Seldom Thought of, 142  
Blondelle, 795  
Boldon Bake, ed. by Greenwell, 1201  
Bombay, Life in, 249  
Bonaparte (Louis Napoleon): see Napoleon.  
Bonycastle's Canada, new edit., 535  
Book Trade: 381, 406, 431, 517; Judgment of Arbiters, 575; Meeting at Exeter Hall, 605; Scotland, 677  
Bowen's Mount Athos and Thessaly, &c., 320  
Boyd's Voice from Australia, 890  
Brace's Hungary in 1851, 746  
Bridge's Vicarage of Elwood, 1425  
British Birds, by Macgillivray, Vols. IV. & V., 997  
British Empire, History of, by J. Macgregor, 248  
Britten's View of British Commerce, 541  
Broderip's Leaves from Note-Book of Naturalist, 81  
Broomhill, 1424  
Brough's Cracker Bon-Bon for Christmas Parties, 81  
Brown's (Frances) Ericksons, 404; We heard a Sage, 603  
Brown's Three Years in Europe, 1056  
Browning's (H. R.) Negative Sign, 457  
Browning's (L.) Shelley Letters: see Shelley Letters  
Bruce on Society of Antiquaries: see Antiquaries  
Buckingham (J. S.) on Temperance and Peace, 17  
Bucknill on Criminal Lunatics, 379  
Bugener's History of the Council of Trent, 820  
Busen's Niebuhr, 39; Hippolytus, 1109, 1142  
Burbidge's Hours and Days, 353  
Burke's Copyright Law—Patent Law Amendment Act, 916  
Burke's Visitation of Seats and Arms, 421  
Burmese War, by Doveton, 1141; by Prof. Wilson, 625  
Burns, Life of, by Chambers, 377, 967, 1002  
Burton's Criminal Trials in Scotland, 447  
Burton's Falconry on the Indus, 765 [see also 804]  
Byrom's Alice Jevons, 404  
Cabin and Parlour, by Randolph, 1424  
Cairne's (W. W.) Vagaries of Life, 699  
Calabria (Southern), Lear's Journals, 1062  
Calton's Annals and Legends of Calais, 1064  
Camden Society, 518; Chronicle of Grey Friars, 622  
Campbell's Modern India, 343  
Canada as It was, &c., by Bonycastle, new edit., 535  
Canadian Cruises, by Traill, 1064  
Carlen's (Emilie) Woman's Life, 719; Ivar, 862  
Carleton's Red Hall, 1236  
Carlie's Manual of Anatomy of Human Mind, 379  
Casey's Two Years on the Farm of Uncle Sam, 886  
Castle Avon, 1393  
Catalogue of Library of Cardinal Mezzofanti, 643  
Catalogue, Universal, 1189  
Catechism of Council of Trent, trans. by Buckley, 675  
Catechism, Shorter, in Hebrew, 542  
Catharine Sinclair, 516  
Catlow's Popular Scripture Zoology, 1178  
Cavenagh's Rough Notes on Nepal, 1268  
Celt, Roman and Saxon, by Wright, 771 [see also 801]  
Ceylon and India, Russell's Tour, 795  
Challice's Laurel and Palm, 1064  
Chalmers's (C.) Notes, Thoughts, and Inquiries, 456  
Chalmers (Dr.), Life of, by Dr. Hanna, Vol. IV., 597  
Chamier (Daniel), Memoir of, 820  
Chapman on Yacht Building, 870  
Charles I. at Carisbrook Castle, by Hillier, 1261 [see also Mr. Hillier's Letter and Comments, 1359, 1395, 1427]  
Charnock's Sutor's County Court Guide, 844  
Cheever's Life and Trials of a Youthful Christian, 627  
Chesney (Col.) On Fire Arms, 216  
Chetham Society: Autobiography of Henry Newcome, 1171  
Chettle's Hoffman, ed. by H. B. L., 1000  
Child's Search for Fairies, 1394  
Chimneys, Eckstein's Practical Treatise on, 1209  
Chimneys, Smoky, by C. W. Harnett, 773  
China, Tea Countries of, by R. Fortane, 451; China during the War, &c., by Davis, 601; Broad Grins from, 749  
Chisholm (Mrs.), Memoir of, by E. Mackenzie, 890  
Cholera in 1848-9, Report on, 970  
Christie's Letter on Life Assurance Institutions, 1146  
Christmas, Holiday Book for, 1388  
Church and State (Handbook), by Redgrave, 222  
Church of England in the Reigns of the Tudors, 142; in the Reigns of the Stuarts, 1636  
Cirripedia, a Monograph, by Darwin, 1138  
Clarendon's (Lord) Friends and Contemporaries, Lives of, by Lady Th. Lewis, 136, 163  
Clayton's Angelology, 198  
Cloister-Life of Emperor Charles V., by Stirling, 1135  
Cloud with Silver Lining, 1357  
Cochrane's Voss's Louisa, 933  
Cockburn's (Lord) Life of Lord Jeffrey, 317, 350  
Coins, Gold and Silver, by Eckfeldt and Dubois, 514  
Coke's Ride over the Rocky Mountains, 138  
Cole's Cape and Kafirs, 135  
Coleridge's (H.) Northern Worthies, 450; Sonnet, 988  
Coleridge (S. T.), Poems of, new edit., 841  
Collectanea Antiqua, by C. R. Smith, Vol. II., 745  
Collins's (W. W.) Mr. Wray's Cash-Box, 50; Basil, 1322  
Colloquies of Edward Osborne, 1239  
Colquhoun's Magic, Witchcraft, &c., 11  
Comic History of Rome, 400  
Confessions of Country Quarters, by Capt. Knox, 324  
Connemara and Irish Highlands, 1034  
Conquerors of the New World, Vol. II., 743  
Constance Tyrell, by Pepys, 569  
Constance, Valley of, by Sir R. Schomburgk, 797  
Cook's Lectures on Christian Evidence, 1209  
Cookery Book, Illustrated London, by F. Bishop, 541  
Cooling's Labouring Classes, 627  
Cooper (J. F.), Memorial of, 1210  
Copyright Law: Interchange of English and French Ratifications, 115; Sheard's Brief Statement, 199; 225; Criminal Treaties from Warburg, 280; Belgian and French Treaty, 450, 920; Part-Son; Book versus Liverpool Philharmonic Society, 546; Amendment Act, 736; Burke's Law betwixt France and England, 916; America and England, 172, 953; Holland, 974  
Corfu, History of, by H. J. W. Jervis, 320  
Cosmos, by Von Humboldt, 374  
Cottage Gardener's Dictionary, by Johnson, 1065  
Country House, &c., 1065  
Court and Liebert, 426  
Cox's (H.), Manual of Differential Calculus, 1241  
Cox's (S. S.), A Buckeye Abroad, 569  
Crawford's Grammar of Malay Language, 865  
Crick's Intimations of England, 253  
Crick's Field, 675  
Crime: 147; Bucknill on Criminal Lunatics, 379; Criminal Trials in Scotland, Burton's Narratives, 447; Remittre in Plea of Insanity, by Wood, 541; Juvenile Pauper-Emigration Bill, 824; Criminal Statistics of 1851, 541; Macconochie's Public Prisons of Valencia, 1064; Switzerland, 1213; Mr. Balner's Motion, 1272  
Crosland's (Mrs.) Lydia, 651  
Crowe's (Mrs.) Adventures of a Beauty, 297  
Cruikshank's Betting Book, 1295  
Crusades, by Michael, tr. by Robson, Vol. I., 427  
Cunningham's (P.) Nell Gwyn, 486  
Curiosities of Communication, 169  
Curling on Volunteer Rifle Corps, 749  
Curtis's Wanderer in Syria, 567; Lotos Eating, 623  
Cyclopedia of Anecdotes of Literature, by Arrive, 795  
Dale's Excursion to Tehuantepec, 457  
Daltons, The, by C. Lever, 423  
Danes and Norwegians in England, Scotland, and Ireland, by Worsaae, 1-6  
Danish Isles, Sixteen Months in, by Hamilton, 621  
Dante, Life & Times of, by Balbo, tr. by Bunbury, 861  
Darwin's Monograph on Cirripedia, 1138  
Davidson's Bibliotheca Devonensis, 1323  
Davis's China during the War, 601  
Day of Pleasure, 1425





## GEOGRAPHY AND MISCELLANEA—continued.

701. Parliamentary Literature, 702, 732. Guano, 758. Bedford Charity, 775, 874. City Improvements, 801. Letter from Mr. Irving, 873. Electro-Magnetic Motive Power, 880. Irish Antiquities, 848, 874, 1151. Barmen's History, 848. Book Clubs and their Secretaries, Letter from Mr. G. Cambridge, 853. Gigantic Telescope, 924, 956. Hay Society, Anniversary, 1024. Refrigeration of Climate at the Pole, 1172. New Park at Kennington, 1093. London Waterworks Spring Water Company, 1121. Mr. W. Dargan, 1123. Surrey Archaeological Society—Decadal Notation, 1140. Mr. Whiston and the Bishop of Rochester, 1181, 1212, 1243, 1306. Prof. Nees von Eisenbeck, 1182, 1213. Navigation of the Murray—Geological Climates, 1186. School of Mines, 1212. New Universal Coin, 1216—Letter from L. H. S., 1240—Letter from E. Hill, 1306. Water Supply, H. S., 1272. Herr Hubner's Collection of Tariffs of all Nations, 1300. Phenomena of Light, Letter from Hardy, 1306—Letter from Sir J. Hippisley, 1363. Taxes on Knowledge, 1331, 1361. Stamp Office, 1331. Signor Pablo Anzo, 1332. Dulwich College, 1360. Leeds Recreation Society, 1390. Literary Fund, 1427. Foreign—Copenhagen, 21, 230, 467, 575. America: Prof. Langhew's Golden Legend, Letter from S. W., 26—Explanation of the Territory of the Equator, by J. A. Franklin, 478—Bridge at Niagara, 975—Expedition to China, 1150—New Exploring Expedition, 1361—Capt. Marcy's Expedition to Rio Roxo, 1037. Turin, 85. Rome, Metastrophic, 116, 974. Constantinople, 144. Naples, 204. Holland, Suppression of Royal Institution, 430—Haston Lake, 975, 1121—Reclaimed Sandbanks, 1218. Volcano in Sandwich Islands, 567. Mines in Greenland, Note from Sir W. C. Trevelyan, 732. Saxony, 801, 975. Discoveries at Athens, 853. Berlin, 874, 1037. Madrid, 974, 953, 1151. Sweden, 875. Bavaria, 953. Nineveh, New Excavations, 1007. Austria, 1069. French—Literary Statistics of France, 115. French Academy, 199, 255, 752, 776. 874, 911, 1429. Inscriptions and Helles Letters, 1332. Censorship, 253. French Geographical Society, 432. The Sorbonne, 300, 382, 432, 776, 975, 1192, 1303. Quarantine Congress, 491. Despotism in France, 546, 577, 752, 1272. French Exploring Expedition—Brazil, Paraguay, &c.—Quarrels among Gallican Churches, 825. Scientific Congress, 921, 1007. New Chair of Zoology in Paris, 1351. *Proc. Art. Gossip*—24, 57, 87, 122, 177, 202, 250, 305, 330, 360, 383, 410, 459, 464, 495, 521, 584, 610, 633, 638, 680, 705, 729, 755, 792, 802, 836-7, 850, 876, 900, 921, 954, 973, 1007-8, 1067-8, 1071, 1086, 1152, 1183, 1215, 1408, 1274, 1304, 1334, 1363. *Natural and Dramatic Gossip*—25-6, 58, 63, 123, 147, 178, 204, 233, 259, 303, 307, 331, 362, 387, 411, 435, 466, 497-8, 521, 553, 582, 611-2, 636, 660, 693, 708, 731, 757, 780, 803, 828, 859-3, 877, 901, 877, 923, 956, 976, 1009, 1040, 1077, 1098, 1122, 1154, 1218, 1249, 1274, 1336, 1367, 1409. *Industry Gossip*—Great Western Railway Company, 1161. Railway Guide, 356. Railroads Abroad, 849, 933. Association for Superannuation Allowances, 874. Hindustan, 88. Sardinia, 933, 1069. America, 953, 1429. Railway Station, Easton Grove, 1361. *Scholar's Gossip*—36, 176, 230, 349. The Sularian System, by Sir R. L. Murchison, 329. New Volcanic Battery, 632. Phenomena of Light, 1069. Sir C. Lyell's Theory of Geological Climates, by H. Hennessy, 1151. *Great Physical Astronomy*, 424. *Great Artists and Anatomists*, by Knox, 935. *Greece, History of*, by Grote, Vols. IX. & X., 347. *Greece*, by Wordsworth, 1424. *Greek School Books: Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography*, 49; *Hebeia of Euripides*, by B. G. Whistler—Return of Ulysses, by Paul Birsch—Homer's *Iliad*, by Dr. Ferguson—Herodotus, trans. by Osgan and Lezers—Robinson's *Lexicon of the New Testament*, 333; *Arctophanes*, Clouds, with Translation, 448; *Homer's Iliad*, with English Notes, &c., by Rev. T. K. Arnold—*Classical Manual*, by J. S. Baird, 457; *Smaller Classical Dictionary*, by Dr. Smith, 675; *Eclogae Aristophaneae*, by Felton, Part I, 871—Part II, 1269; *Xenophon's Anabasis*, by Anthon and Dorn, 917; *Elementary Reader*, by Ahrens and Arnold, 1146; *Emphatic New Testament*, by Taylor, 1177; *Agamemnon of Æschylus*, by Peter, 1210; *Grammar for Schools*, by Curtius, 1211; *Herodotus*, from Schweighauser, by Woolsey and Arnold, 1199; *Sophocles*, by Schneidewin and Browne, 1241; *Thucydides*, de bello Pelop., Book VIII., by Boehme, 1269. *Greece's Concordance to Book of Common Prayer*, 223. *Greece's (Mrs.) Princesses of England from Norman Conquest*, Vol. IV., 629 (see also 701, 801, 824, 840). *Greenleaf Papers*, 71, 110. *Grey's (Mrs.) Mary Senham*, 749. *Grey Friars of London*, Chronicle of, 622. *Grieth's Specimens of Old Indian Poetry*, 673. *Grieth's Household Stories*, Illust., 652. *Grieth's History of Greece*, Vols. IX. & X., 347. *Grieth's Propugnacula*, 603. *Guide Books: Great Northern Railway*, Mackie's *Traveller*, 222; *Heath's Whitty*, 542; *Irish Tourist's*, 600; *Adams's Guide to Lake District*, 724; *Waikman's Week in W. of Ireland—Three Days on the Shannon*, 749; *Hints to Travellers in Portugal*, 942; *Ashby-de-la-Zouch*, 943. *Grieth's Shakespeare and Times—Cornwall*, 840. *Guilford*, by Eastwick, 1292. *Guilford's Mormons*, 1035, 1115. *Guilford's Historical Sketches*, 772. *Guilford's Vasa*, History of, 293. *Guilford's Life of Taou-Kwang*, 274. *Guilford's School for Fathers*, 428. *Guilford's Stories without a Name*, 720. *Guilford's Stories*, 647. *Hahn-Hahn* (Countess), Letter to, 223. *Halle's Letters on Vale of Teign*, 113. *Hamilton's (Sir W.) Philosophy and Literature*, 673. *Hamilton's Sixteen Months in Danish Isles*, 621. *Hammer's School Assistant*, 198. *Hanna's (Dr.) Life of Dr. Chalmers*, Vol. IV., 597. *Hansa*, The, by Von Schlözer, 867. *Hardy's Analytical Researches in Magnetism*, 1295. *Hardy (J. S.) Remains of*, by Nichols, 488. *Harrington's Desideratum for the Age*, 17. *Harry Brightside*, by Aunt Louisa, 404. *Hawthorne's Wonder-Book*, 81; *Blithedale Romance*, 741. *Haywood's Letters to Farmers*, 1178. *Hazlitt's Translation of Talvi's History of Colonization of America—Letter from Talvi* 800, from Hazlitt 254. *Head's (Sir F. B.) Fortnight in Ireland*, 1201. *Headley's Old Guard*, 1117. *Hebrew Primer and Reading-Book*, by Benisch, 1295. *Hedley's Practical Treatise on Coal Mines*, 652. *Heinfetter's Translation of Epistle of St. James*, 652. *Heir of Ardennan*, 167. *Heir of Sherborne*, 1031. *Helen of Innsbruck*, 574. *Hendriks's Contribution to History of Insurance*, 76. *Hendrey's Vegetation of Europe*, 913. *Herald, Botany of Voyage of*, by Seemann, 1061—*Zoology of*, by Forbes and Richardson, 1204. *Hero*, A., 1425. *Hervey's (Mrs.) Pathway of the Fawn*, 116. *Heywood's Dramatic Works*, by J. P. Collier, 434. *Hexaglot Pentateuch*, ed. by K. Young, 700. *Hidden Treasures*, by Handman, 1294. *Higgin's Researches in Solar Realm*, 403. *Hillier's Charles I.*—see Charles I. *Himalaya (Western) and Tibet*, by Dr. Thomson, 1031. *Hind's Solar System*, 1092. *Hindmarsh's Precious Stones of Scripture*, 724. *Hinton's Test of Experience*, 380. *Hippolytus and his Age*, by Bunsen, 1109, 1142. *History, English Writers of*, by Ebeling, 272. *Hitchcock's Religion of Geology*, 1145. *Holland's (Lord) Memoirs of Whig Party*, Vol. I., 295. *Holmes (Oliver Wendell), Poems of*, 615. *Home at the Haven*, 627. *Home Truths for Home Peace*, 253. *Homes of American Authors*, 1353. *Honan's Our own Correspondent in Italy*, 693. *Hooper's (Mrs.) Arbell*, 1425. *Horace Grantham*, by Horrocks, 301. *Horse-shoe*, by Flight and Cruikshank, 198. *Hough's Political and Military Events in India*, 1353. *Household of Sir Thomas More*, 73. *Howell's Thoughts on Chief Bards of Bible*, 844. *Howell's Literature of Northern Europe*, 400. *Howley (F.), The Royal Family of England*, 844. *Hughes's It's All for the Best*, 1294. *Human Life*, 541. *Humboldt's (Von) Cosmos*, 374. *Humboldt, The Brothers, Lives of*, 1391. *Hungary, My Life and Acts in*, by Georgei, 536; *Hungary in 1851*, by C. L. Brace, 746; *Grammar*, by Wékey, 1146; *Lettres Hongroises*, 192. *Hunt on Habits of Observation*, 428. *Hunt's Photography*, 461. *Hunter (Rev. J.) Robin Hood*, 719. *Hurricanes, Piddington's Conversations*, 942. *Hussey's Notes on Churches in Kent*, 1206. *Ibbetson's Notes on Geology of Isle of Wight*, 141. *Illustrated Exhibitor*, 516. *Importance of Literature*, &c., 1065. *India, Modern*, by Campbell, 343; *Affairs of—Letter on Cotton*, by Moner, 403; *India in Greece*, by Pococke, 567; *Winter Tour*, by Capt. Egerton, 649; *Conquests*, by Horace St. John, 697; *Russell's Tour*, 793; *N.W. Provinces*, by Raikes, 1269; *Hough's Events*, 1353. *Indian Poetry*, Griffith's Specimens, 673. *Ingestre's (Viscount) Meliora*, 380. *Insurance, History of*, Hendrick's Contributions, 76. *Intemperance in Navy*, by Sir J. Ross, 1295. *Invasions of England*, by Prof. Creasy, 252. *Investments*, by R. A. Ward, 17. *Ireland in 1850*, Memoir of, by an Ex-M.P., 18; *Wilde's Popular Superstitions*, 603; *Ellis's Irish Ethnology*, 966; *Some of its Evils*, 1034; *a Fortnight in*, by Sir F. B. Head, 1201; *Excursions in*, by Miss O'Connell, 1265 (see also 1299). *Israel of the Alps*, by Muston, trans. by Hazlitt, 968. *Italy and Vienna*, Letters from, 300. *James's Lectures and Miscellanies*, 942. *Janney's Life of William Penn*, 695. *Jansenists*, by S. P. Tregelles, 198. *Japan*, by C. Macfarlane, 914. *Jeffrey, Life of*, by Lord Cockburn, 317, 350. *Jerdan (W.) Autobiography of*, Vol. I., 612 [see also Letter from Young Mortality, 553, 637—Letters from Mr. Jerdan and Mr. C. Redding, 596-7]; Vol. II., 663 [see also 902—Letter from Mr. Torpor, 924]; Vol. III., 1233. *Jerrold's (D.) Writings*, 515; *Cakes and Ale*, 1143. *Jerrold's (W. B.) How to See the British Museum*, 352. *Jervis's Corfu*, 320; *Field Operations*, 1117. *Jews in Spain*, by De Castro and Kirwan, 488. *Jewsbury (G.) History of an Adopted Child*, 1367. *Joceline's Mother's Legacies*, 457. *John Bull's New Suit*, 844. *Jones (Owen) on Colour in Decorative Art*, 1295. *Jones's (R.) Natural History of Animals*, Vol. II., 1287. *Jones on the State of Agriculture*, 675. *Jones and Freeman's History of St. David's*, 870. *Jottrand's London from a Belgian Point of View*, 403. *Junius, the Quarterly Review*, No. 179, 78. *Jury, Trial by*, Forsyth's History, 397. *Kafir War*, 1850-1, by Goddard and Irving, 113, 404; by Sir A. Stockenstrom, 253. *Katmandu, Oliphant's Journey to*, 598. *Kavanagh's Women of Christianity*, 104. *Keepsake, The*, 1352. *Kelke's Churchyard Manual*, 352. *Kennedy's Modern Poets and Poetry of Spain*, 789. *Kew Gardens: Sir W. Hooker's Report*, 545. *Kingsley's Sermons*, 844; *Phaethon*, 1168. *Kirby (Rev. W.) Life of*, by Freeman, 841. *Kirst on La Plata Region*, 1178. *Kitto's Palestine*, 488; *Daily Bible Illustrations*, 700. *Knox's (Capt.) Confessions of Country Quarters*, 324; *Ark and Deluge*, 541. *Knox's Great Artists, &c.—Artistic Anatomy*, 935. *Koch's Military Road of Caucasus*, 1090. *Kohl's Sketches from Popular and Still Life*, 163. *Lady Geraldine Seymour*, 1240. *Lady of the Lake Illustrated*, 1388. *Lair's State of Denmark*, 891 [see also 1066]. *Lamarine's History of Restoration*, 322 [see also 301], 374, 1113, 1139, [see also 1272]. *Laming's Matter and Force*, 795. *Landmann's (Col.) Adventures and Recollections*, 911. *Lander (W. S.), Imaginary Conversation—Alcibiades and Xenophon*, 52. *Lands of the Messiah, Mahomet, &c.*, by Aitoun, 1175. *Langdale (Lord), Memoirs*, by T. D. Hardy, 717. *Lardner's Great Exhibition and London in 1851*, 671; *Handbook of Natural Philosophy*, Second Course, 1240. *Latham's Man and his Migrations*, 113; *Ethnology of British Colonies*, 240; *Ethnology of British Islands*, 1893; *Germania of Tacitus*, 783. *Latin School Books: Sallust*, tr. by Osgan—*Cicero on Old Age*, &c. tr., by Lewers, 353; *Cicero's Orations*, tr. by Yonge, Vol. II., 675; *Juvenal, Persius, &c.*, by Gifford, 870; *Latin id English*, by Arnold—*Complete Grammar*, by Donaldson, 871; *Carmina non prius audita*, 917; *Exercises*, by Donaldson, 918; *Plautus's Comedies*, by Riley—*Foliorum*, by Holden—*New Delectus*, by Adams, 1146; *Herodotus of Ovid*, &c., by Riley—*Georgics of Virgil*, by Cobbold, 1210; *First Lessons*, by Fischer, 1241; *Antileptic Gradus*, by Arnold—*Quintus Curtius*, by Foss, 1269. *Laurie's Voice of Humanity*, 1178. *Lawrance's Treasure-Seeker's Daughter*, 1061. *Lea's Observations on Genus Unio*, Vol. IV., 17. *Lear's Journals in Southern Calabria*, 1062. *Leaves from My Journal*, 942. *Leger's Magnetoscope*, 844. *Le Maout's Three Kingdoms of Nature*, Vol. I., 1174. *Lemon's Prose and Verse*, 113. *Lena; or, the Silent Woman*, 352. *Lepsius's Letters from Egypt*, 885; *Discoveries*, 1235. *Lermontoff's Poetical Remains*, by Bodenstedt, 1117. *Lettres Hongroises*, 198. *Lever's Dalton's*, 423; *Dodd Family Abroad*, 1033. *Levi's International Law of Commerce*, 253; *Commercial Law*, Vol. II, Part II., 772. *Lewald's (Fanny) England and Scotland*, Vol. II., 373; *Italian Sketch-Book*, 675. *Lewis's (Lady Th.) Lives of Friends and Contemporaries of Lord Charendon*, 136, 163. *Lewis on Observation and Reasoning in Politics*, 889. *Libraries: Chetham*, 431; *Manchester Free*, 921, 971; *Liverpool*, 1069, 1150, 1181, 1130; *Marylebone*, 1131, 1181; *Plymouth*, 758, 875; *Boston*, U.S., 1272. *Life and Adventures of J. K. O'Dwyer*, 700. *Life Assurance Manual*, by P. A. Eagle, 18. *Lilian*, by W. M. Praed, 909. *Lily of St. Paul's*, 515. *Lindsay on Our Navigation, &c.*, 675. *Literary and Scientific Institutions: 255, 280; Hackney*, 290; *Mr. Chester's Plan*, 290, 335, 450, 578; *Petition*, 635; *St. James's Society*, 634; *City of London*, 1095; *Islington—Birkbeck Society*, 1150; *Yorkshire Union*, 1213; *Worcester*, 1245; *Distribution of Reports to*, 1351; *Prof. Sedgwick at Leeds*, 1428; *Museum of Mankind*, 61. *Liton's Church of Christ*, 223. *Loelius's M. Guizot*, 379. *Log of the Water Lily*, 222. *Lost Inheritance*, 795. *Lothrop's Glen Luna*, 772. *Lotus-Eating*, by G. W. Curtis, 623. *Lotsky's Life of Moses*, 17. *Louis's School Days*, by May, 1035. *Louis the Seventeenth*, by M. De Beauchesne, 1232. *Lydia*, by Mrs. Crosland, 651. *Lytton's (Lady B.) School for Husbands*, 80.

Macaroniana, by Delepierre, 220  
 McCulloch on Rate of Wages, 269  
 Macfarlane's Japan, 914; Catacombs of Rome, 627;  
 Life of Duke of Marlborough, 672  
 Macgillivray's Narrative of Voyage of Rattlesnake,  
 12, 74; History of British Birds, Vols. IV. V., 997  
 Macgregor's History of British Empire, 248  
 Mackinnon's Atlantic and Transatlantic Sketches, 618  
 Madden's Shrines and Sepulchres, 271  
 Madeira, by Harcourt, 17; by White, 276  
 Magnetical Investigations, by Scoresby, Vol. II., 443  
 Magnetoid Currents, by Rutter, 50  
 Mahogany Tree, 379  
 Mahon's (Lord) History of England, Vols. V. & VI.,  
 7, 46; Letter to Sparks—Letter from do. [see 920], 934  
 Mailland's Zingra, 515  
 Maimonides' Book of Precepts, 608  
 Malay Language, Crawford's Grammar, 865  
 Mallet du Pan, Memoirs of, by A. Sayous, 141, 452  
 Mammalia in Museum of E. I. Company, 1145  
 Man without a Name, 1289  
 Manco, by Kingston, 1327  
 Mangin's Miscellaneous Essays, 456  
 Manufacture, Statistics of, 676  
 Margaret Cecil, 82  
 Marie de Medicis, Life of, by Miss Pardoe, 645  
 Marlborough (Duke), Life of, by Macfarlane, 672  
 Marquard's Principles of Proportion, 1241  
 Martin on Storms of May 1850, 870  
 Mary Gray, 404  
 Mary Seham, by Mrs. Grey, 749  
 Mason's Life in Mexico, 105  
 Mathews's Letter to Dramatic Authors of France, 838  
 Maurice's National Defence in England, 168  
 Maurice's Nineteen Sermons, 223  
 Mavardi, Life and Writings of, by Enger, 700  
 Mayer's Mexico, 1137  
 Mazzini's Pope in Nineteenth Century, 428  
 Mechanics' Institutes: see Literary and Scientific  
 Institutions  
 Medical Books: Sketches of Brazil, by Dundas—  
 Varicose Veins, by Nunn—Cheltenham, by Lee—Half-  
 yearly Abstract of Medical Sciences—Sir B. Brodie's  
 Physiological Researches—Heart, Diseases of, by Ward-  
 rop—Elementary Anatomy and Physiology, by Lovett  
 —Stomach and its Difficulties, by Sir J. Eyre, 354;  
 Medical Literature, by Dobell—Laws of Health, by L. J.  
 Beale—Popular Medical Errors, by J. B. Harrison—  
 Kinesipathy, by A. Georgil—Medicina Mechanica, by Dr.  
 Blundell—Cure of Disease by Movements, by Dr. Roth—  
 Epidemic Pestilence, by Boscombe, 829; Annals of Ana-  
 tomy and Physiology, by Goodis, No. II.—German Mine-  
 ral Waters, by Sutor, 621; Phthisis, &c., by Dr. Vires—  
 Canton's Oratorio, 1852—Mirror of Dentistry, by Davenport  
 —Cyclopedia of Anatomy, by Todd, Part XLII.—Dic-  
 tionary of Domestic Medicine, &c., Parts I. to VIII., by  
 Thomson—Thirty-five years in the East, by Honigberger  
 —Cold Water, by H. F. Johnson—Reform in Private  
 Asylums, by Monro, 1211; Diseases of the Skin, by Nelligan  
 —Action of Medicines, by Headland, 1242  
 Meeres's School Cyclopaedia, 483  
 Melville's Pierre, 1265  
 Melvilles, The, 573  
 Men of the Time in 1852, 167  
 Men's Duties to Women, 1065  
 Merewether's Life on Board an Emigrant Ship, 843  
 Merewether, Memorials of, 1240  
 Merivale's History of Romans under Empire, 137  
 Metallurgy, Manual of, by Phillips, 600  
 Meteorological Observations, 849  
 Mexico, Life in, by Mason, 105; by Brantz Mayer, 1137  
 Miall's Footsteps of our Forefathers, 541  
 Michaud's History of the Crusades, 427  
 Michellet's Martyrs of Russia, trans. 379  
 Microscopical Science, Quarterly Journal, 1209  
 Miller on Differential Calculus, 1295  
 Miller's Village Queen, 167  
 Milner's Garden, Grove and Field, 795  
 Milton Davenport, by Bandler, 1327  
 Mineralogy, Phillips's Elementary Introduction, 1269  
 Mines, Records of Schools of, Vol. I. Part I., 1065  
 Mitford's (Miss) Recollections of Literary Life, 10  
 Moir, Life and Works of, by T. Aird, 572  
 Moncrieff, Dramatic Works of, 792  
 Money and its Influence, 749  
 Montagu's Naval Architecture, 1118  
 Montgomery's (R.) Lyra Christiana, 542  
 Monuments and Testimonials: Cooper, 356; Hood,  
 1120, 1149, 1212, 1575; Jenner, 826, 873; Lambert-Jones,  
 191; Lansdowne, 605; Mackintosh, 1299; Moore, 406,  
 431, 677; Marquis of Northampton, 578; Oken, 200;  
 Peel, 552, 604, 802, 827, 922, 1067; Col. Rawlinson, 1299;  
 Stephenson, 1361; Talbot, 736; Thompson, 579; Wilson,  
 431; Wordsworth Window, 1129  
 Moody's (Mrs.) Roughing It in the Bush, 247  
 Moore, Life of, by Lord John Russell, 1385, 1420  
 Moral Philosophy in England, by Whewell, 513  
 Morley's Life of Palissy, 1087, 1144 [see also 1186]  
 Mormons, by Gunnison, 1085, 1115  
 Morris's Angel Voices, 603  
 Morris and Finlaison, Law Procedure Act, 1269  
 Moseley's Political Elements, 1177

Moses, Life of, by Dr. Lotaky, 17  
 Moultrie's Memoir, &c. of W. S. Walker, 794  
 Mount Athos, Thessaly, &c., by G. F. Bowen, 320  
 Mullenger's Notice to Quit, 795  
 Mundus Dramaticus, 917  
 Mundy's (Lieut.-Col.) Our Antipodes, 509  
 Museum, British: Purchases of MSS., 63; Appoint-  
 ments, 54, 327, 356; Purchases of Books, 225; Report of  
 Trustees, 380; Comments on Report of Commission of  
 Inquiry, 542; How to See the British Museum, by W. B.  
 Jerrold, 352; Milton's Agreement for 'Paradise Lost';  
 459; Reading Rooms, 489, 758—Approach to, 578, 974,  
 1094; Railing, 321, 729; Exclusion on Early Closing, 681;  
 Correspondence of Architect, 1029, 1057; The Museum in  
 Five Sections, 1118; Note from 'Nemo,' 1120  
 Music:  
 Amateur Society, 266, 407, 611, 659  
 Ash Wednesday Concert, 250  
 Bach Society, 262  
 Best's (Mr.) Organ Playing, 263  
 Claus (Mlle.), 554, 707  
 Concerts for Messrs. Collard's Workmen, 123. Misses Macalpine's  
 —Miss H. Taylor's—Sig. and Mme. Ferrari's, 497. Prudent's  
 622. Aguilar's—Orest, 253. Mme. Puzos's, 353. J. Parry's En-  
 tertainment, 288, 601. Mr. C. Salaman's, 363. Miss Pleyel's,  
 283, 707. Mrs. Anderson's, 633. Madame Sala's—Mlle. St. Marc's  
 —Miss Bassano and Herr Kube's, 636. Dresel's—Mlle. Kastner  
 and Herr Laub's—Mlle. Scherer's—Sloper's—Miss Dohy and  
 Mr. Lindsay Sloper's—Miss and Miss E. Birch's—Benson's—  
 Mlle. Coulon's, 639. Carter's Entertainment, 661. Osborne's—  
 Mellon, Pratten and Hausmann's—Seckley's—Naguen's—Rove-  
 diac's—Ballet's, 623. Molière's, 797, 730, 750. Elia's—Joachim's  
 —Gordigiani's, 731. Goltwick and Kloss's—Herr and Madame  
 Goffric's, 731. Signora Favanti-Rakemann, 750. Miss Dohy's  
 Sordes, 1263. Lady Scherer's—Sloper's, 178, 366, 623. 823.  
 Let's—Handel's, 178. Bennett's, 239, 331, 730. Réunion des  
 Arts, 300, 638, 823. Neate's, 253. Kallmark's, 366, 497. Bin-  
 field's, 366. Lucas's, 394, 395, 396. Becher's—Violet, 407.  
 331, 353, 629, 730. Elia's Winter Evenings, 177, 243, 353, 411,  
 Musical Union, 466, 522, 555, 629, 707, 756, 780. Quarter A.  
 association, 486, 554, 633, 658, 707, 730. Mlle. Speyer's, 497. Rich-  
 ards's, 551, 611, 651  
 English Glee and Madrigal Union, 123, 263, 306, 497, 659  
 Exeter Hall: Sacred Harmonic Society's—Athenic, 146; Report,  
 175; Elia's, 263, 353, 659, 680; Israel, 360; 385; 'Cal-  
 vary,' 736; Messiah, 1367, 1368  
 Harmonic Union: Programme, 1367, 1431  
 Herr Hiller's Compositions, 522  
 Italy: Curial Music, 52; Pacini's New Opera, 147; Music in  
 Naples, 1433  
 Junior United Vocal and Instrumental Society, 263  
 Lasko's Daniel, 621  
 Liverpool Philharmonic Society: Hornley's Joseph, 634  
 London Sacred Harmonic Society, 175, 253, 353, 361, 362, 629  
 Moore and Music, 267  
 Musical Institute of London, 147, 269  
 Musical Portraits, 707  
 Music in Paris, 1366  
 New Philharmonic Society, 147, 178, 361, 434, 466, 553, 633, 688  
 New Publications: Bach's 'Notturni,' &c. 780. Baulester's Sonata  
 for Two Performers, 779. Barker's (Laura) 'Six Songs,' 1072.  
 Best's 'Compositions for Organ,' 363. Beudini's 'Olden  
 Stories,' &c. 523. Berckley's 'Israel Restored,' 1121. Bosen's 'The  
 Graces,' 551. Bosen's 'Six Songs,' 1072. Cooper's (B.) 'Songs,' 23.  
 Deane's 'O, tell me not,' 522. Dubourg's 'Violin,' &c. 4, 1073.  
 Dugan's 'Songs,' 23. 'Molière,' 730. Oriani's, 551. Engel's  
 'Bauernlieder,' 1072. Engel's Compositions, 953. Fitzwilliam's  
 'My, lovely Charming,' 497. Miss Gabriel's Songs, &c. 870.  
 Gade's Duet, 913. Gade's 'New Compositions—Kullak's Compositions,  
 953. Labee's 'Songs from the Holy Scriptures,' 631. M. Dermott's  
 Compositions, 220. Macaroni's (Miss) Compositions, 434.  
 M. Muriel's 'Daughter of Faith,' 551. M. Silesky's 'Concerto in a  
 Minor,' 27. Silesky's 'Concerto for Violoncello for Youth,' 551.  
 'Studies for the Pianoforte,' 33. 'Standard Drama Libretti,' 497.  
 Stephens's 'Forest Hunter's Glee,' 23. Townsend's 'Victory  
 Handel to Dubourg's,' 1184. Wagner's 'Nithelung,' 823. Wal-  
 ley's Two Trios, 851. Waly's 'Four German Songs,' —By the  
 Rivers of Babylon, 576. Yrigoy's 'The Woeing Season,' 352.  
 Zeta's Songs, 57  
 Notes on the Festivals: Birmingham, 975, 1068; Hereford, 1069;  
 Norwich, 1038, 1072  
 Notes on Music in Germany, 1112, 1158, 1217, 1265, 1325, 1394  
 Philharmonic Society: Concerts, 351, 366, 463, 522, 625, 635, 682, 730  
 Reeves's (Mr. Sims) Benefit, 653  
 Royal Academy Concerts, 362, 667, 736  
 Royal Society of Musicians, 367, 467  
 St. Martin's Hall: Monthly Concerts, 122, 323, 331, 407. Choral  
 Concert, 757  
 Society of Female Musicians, 669  
 Wagner Case (The), 47, 554, 611, 731  
 Wednesday Concerts, 853  
 Musical Letters, 650  
 Myrtle's Home for Holidays, 82; Little Sister, 404  
 Napier's Administration of Seinde, 43; Defence of  
 England, 197  
 Napoleon (Louis), Political and Historical Works of,  
 245; Bonaparte Plot, 223; Slater's Louis Napoleon, 541;  
 Ode to, by G. W. F., 1210; Le Coup d'Etat de Louis  
 Bonaparte, 1299; Napoleon Dynasty, by the Berkeley  
 Men, 1086; Napoleon the Little, by Victor Hugo, 1085  
 Natural Philosophy, Handbook, by Lardner, 1240  
 Neale's Residence in Sinn, 845  
 Neale's Summer and Winter of the Soul, 1355  
 Nell Gwyn, by P. Cunningham, 486  
 Nepal, Rough Notes, by Cavenagh, 1263  
 New Tales of Fairy Land, 82  
 New Zealand, Six Colonies of, by W. Fox, 17  
 Newcome (Rev. H.), Autobiography of, 1177  
 Newman's Regal Rome, 511  
 Nicolini's Life of Roman Catholic Priest, 487  
 Niebuhr, Life of, by Bunsen, Brandis, &c., 39; by  
 Miss Winkworth, 1417; Lectures on Ancient History, 747  
 Nineteenth Century, 1178

Nineveh, Story of, 404  
 Norica, from the German of Hagen, 647  
 Northern Europe, by W. and M. Howitt, 400  
 Northern Mythology, by B. Thorpe, 250  
 Northern Worthies, new edit., by H. Coleridge, 450  
 Nye on Aerial Travelling, 1065

OBITUARY: Miss Laura Addison, 1010; M. Abber-  
 sen, 976; Mr. Allen, 954; Dr. Anderson, 1218; Dr. Bayard,  
 1272; Prince De Beauharnais, 1244; M. De Bellevue,  
 255; Miss Berry, 172, 1259 [see also 1332]; Mr. R.  
 Blackwood, 226; M. Blanco-Luno, 1130; Mr. H. Brown,  
 1244; M. Buchner, 477; Dr. Castel, 1120; M. Cavé, 407;  
 Dr. Chapman, 1181; Dr. Colston, 1213; Prof. Cowper,  
 1148; Mr. Callimore, 459; Mr. J. Dalrymple, 517;  
 M. Decaisne, 1216, 1304; M. Desmazière, 226; M. Diez,  
 954; Mr. Dolman, 431; Dr. Egilsson, 1095; Dr. Elm-  
 stein, 1151; Prof. Empson, 1395; Earl of Falmouth,  
 956; M. Foyelle, 1432; M. Feuchère, 827; Mr. Fillan,  
 1097; Mr. W. Finden, 1070; Mr. E. Fitzwilliam,  
 411; Mr. Fletcher, 897; Commander Forbes, 634; Mr.  
 F. Forster, 431; M. Gannal, 116; M. De Garadé,  
 412; Mr. W. Gardiner, 723; Madame Gay, 301, M. Van  
 Geel, 610; Mr. J. Gibson, 1120; Signor Gioberti, 177;  
 M. Godde, 827; M. Gogol, 1429; Dr. Graefe, 21; Mr.  
 V. Griffith, 1150; Dr. Grutibussen, 726; Sir J. Guest,  
 1367; Mrs. Harlowe, 88; M. Hisinger, 800; Mr. Hol-  
 croft, 204; M. Huvé, 1431; Italian Obituary for 1851,  
 436; Mr. J. Jex, 125; M. Tony Johannot, 849; M. Joly,  
 574; Dr. Keate, 301; Mr. Landsner, 282; M. De Lang-  
 dorff, 900; M. B. Laroché, 85; Mr. W. Lennie, 648; Coun-  
 P. Litta, 321; Ada, Lady Lovelace, 1329; Mr. J. M. Dar-  
 mid, 1331; Mr. Macfarlane, 1120; Dr. Macgillivray, 74;  
 Mr. A. Mackay, 517; Rev. E. Mangin, 1150; Dr. Mas-  
 tell, 1244, 1270; M. Marast, 329; M. Mayer, 632; Dr.  
 Mayo, 953; Herr Merck, 757; M. Merle, 306; Madame  
 Merlin, 412; M. Millville, 574; Mr. Mitchell, 144; Mlle.  
 Monti, 466; Thomas Moore, 376, 301, 307, 328, 406,  
 431; Dr. De Morgenstern, 1230; Mr. H. H. Murray,  
 555; Mlle. Nobel, 976; Mlle. Olden-Schnee, 122;  
 Baron D'Olinson, 144; Alfred Count D'Orsay, 849; Dr.  
 Oxbergy, 283; Dr. Palmblad, 1120; M. Parant, 121;  
 Dr. Pfaff, 517; M. Pontin, 1182; Mr. G. R. Porter, 973; Sig.  
 Porto, 1250; M. Pradier, 658, 681, 706, 851; Mr. S. Frost,  
 202; Mr. Pugin, 1068, 1069; M. Ramey, 1216; Ernst  
 Raupach, 382; Dr. Récamier, 776; Mr. J. H. Reynolds,  
 1275, 1296; Signor Ricci, 1230; Dr. Richards, 1125; M.  
 Rochoux, 431; Mr. G. H. Rodwell, 123; Miss A. Roman,  
 178; M. Rouw, 1431; Dr. Rouillard, 1120; M. Saint-  
 Edmé, 407; Count De Sarrazin, 1120; M. Scheitzhofen,  
 1120; M. Scholz, 1213; Mr. Scrope, 600; Lieut. Gen.  
 Seddeler, 356; M. Von Silverstolpe, 123; Mr. J. F. Ste-  
 phens, 1426; Mr. W. F. Stevenson, 490; Dr. Stiffel,  
 954; M. Taillefer, 467; Mr. W. Thompson, 226, 270,  
 273; Mr. Thomson, 1025; Dr. T. Thomson, 757; J. M.  
 W. Turner, R.A., 25, 754; Mr. T. Hudson Turner, 81;  
 M. Vaillant, 827; Mr. Vincent, 800; M. De Wachter,  
 922; Baron Walckenaer, 517; Mlle. Eveline De Wal-  
 denburg, 681; Baron Peter De Wallencrona, 921; Mr. E.  
 Warburton, 54; Madame Von Weber, 283; Daniel Web-  
 ster, 1244; Duke of Wellington, 1004, 1242; Herr Von  
 Winterfeld, 332; Dr. N. Wulfsberg, 800  
 Observation and Reasoning in Politics, by Lewis, 839  
 O'Dwyer's Excursions in Ireland, 1265 [see 1266]  
 O'Dwyer (J. K.), Life and Adventures of, 700  
 Oersted's Soul in Nature, by L. & J. Horner, 744  
 Old Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-One, 324  
 Old Roads and New Roads, 1234  
 Older and Wiser, 1425  
 Oliphant's Journey to Katmandu, 508  
 Oliver's Memoir of Emma Whiteford, 404  
 Orchard-Grower's Manual, by Williams, 1118  
 O'Rourke, by Monahan, 651  
 Osborn's Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal, 667  
 Ossoli, Margaret Fuller, Memoirs, 159, 193 [see 254]

Pagan Saxondom, Remains of, by Akerman, 647  
 Palestine, Survey of, 919  
 Palin's History of Church of England, 1688-1717, 17  
 Palissy, Life of, by Morley, 1087, 1144 [see also 1186]  
 Palmer's Connexion of Poetry with History, 1065  
 Palmerston's Opinions and Policy, by Francis, 222  
 Palmoli, 542  
 Pamphlets, Reprints, Translations, &c.: 223, 324; On  
 Education, 542, 1295; 844-5, 693-4, 917, 943, 1006, 1068,  
 1240, 1295, 1326, 1357, 1394, 1423  
 Panama, Dunlop's Notes on, 675  
 Pardoe's (Miss) Life of Marie de Medicis, 645  
 Parisian Sights and French Principles, 1289  
 Parker's (Theodore) Discourse, 1210  
 Parks and Pleasure Grounds, by C. H. J. Smith, 1088  
 Pathway of the Fawn, by Mrs. T. K. Hervey, 16  
 Paton's Home of Workman, 1064  
 Patterson's (J. L.) Egypt, Palestine, &c., 403  
 Paul's Analysis, &c. of Book of Genesis, 676  
 Pauli's (Dr.) King Alfred, 139; tr. 626  
 Peace Papers for the People, 542  
 Peachy's Wax-flower Modelling, 542  
 Peel, (Sir R.), Critical Biography of, by Francis, 1239  
 Penn (W.) Life of, by Janney, 695  
 Penny, The, 773  
 Pensons: Children of Prof. Hearn, 225; Mr. Hind  
 —Dr. Mantell, 775; Mr. Ronalds, 775, 1182; Mrs. Hind  
 1106; Mrs. Southey—Miss Costello, 1036; Dr. Richard-  
 son, 1149; from June 1851 to June 1852, 694  
 Percy Society: Britannia's Pastorals, 3rd Book, &c.  
 by T. C. Croker, 538; Reconstruction, 330



Persius and his Philosophies, 77  
 Peter's Literature of the Faust Legend, 428  
 Petermann's Search for Franklin, 697  
 Pettigrew's Letter to Lord Mahon, 671  
 Peyrat's Pastors in Wilderness, 820  
 Pfeiffer, Madame, Journey to Iceland, 918, 942  
 Philon, by Kingsley, 1168  
 Phillips (Sir T.) on Industrial Progress of England, 17  
 Phillips (W.) Introduction to Mineralogy, 1269  
 Phillips's (J. A.) Manual of Metallurgy, 600; Gold-  
 Mining and Assaying, 1118  
 Philosophers and Actresses, 602  
 Philosophy, Book of, 574  
 Philosophy and Literature, by Sir W. Hamilton, 673  
 Photography: Letters from Dr. Woods, Messrs. H. F.  
 Talbot, Hunt, and Spencer, 92, 38—Mr. Marshall and Mr. Ellis,  
 94—Mr. Archer, 97; Preparation of the Proto-nitrate of Iron,  
 Letter from Mr. Ellis, 173; 1 Photographic Society, 301, 610; Mr.  
 H. Hunt's Work, 461; Microscopic Photographs, Letter from Mr.  
 Julius, 360; Mr. Kiburn's Rajah of Koor, 729; Mr. Mayall's  
 Balloon Party, 800; Mr. Hockin's Communication, 875; Album,  
 1407; Fixation of Colours, 1273; Photographic Landscapes on  
 Paper, Letter from Mr. Stewart, 1353, 1386  
 Picture Book for a Noah's Ark, 942  
 Piddington's Conversations about Hurricanes, 942  
 Pillans's (Prof.) Rationale of Discipline, 1177  
 Playfair on the Study of Abstract Science, 428  
 Pleasant Pages, 81  
 Pococke's India in Greece, 507  
 Poe, Life and Poems of, by Hannay, 1425  
 Poetry: A Child's Heaven, 51; "We heard a  
 Song," by Frances Brown, 603; On the Tainino, by  
 H. C. G. 821; Sonnet, by W. M. A. 839; Sonnet by  
 Bartley Coleridge, 983; The Card Dealer, by H. H. H.,  
 1147; The Dead Wellington, 1249  
 Poetry of the Year, 1388  
 Poets of the Woods, 1388  
 Political Economy Illustrated by Sacred History, 844  
 Pomology, British, by R. Hogg, 1145  
 Post, The, 844  
 Popular Institutions, 724, 750, 799, 845, 1301  
 Post Office in 1763, 1329  
 Postage: Ocean Penny Postage, 144, 518, 726, 954;  
 Post Office at Railway Stations, 116; Postage of Books,  
 171, 233, 284, 328, 362, 490, 579, 605, 601, 752, 848;  
 International Postage Association, 874—by a Man of Letters,  
 894—1020, 1036, 1044, 1073, 1147, 1244; German  
 Postal Union, 829; American, 974; Literature and the Book  
 Trade, Colonial Postage, 1121, 1147, 1299, 1331,  
 1387; Post Office in 1763, 1329  
 Potato Rot, Synopsis from Massachusetts, 1357  
 Potter's Ambrogiana, 253  
 Poetry, Domestic, Newton's Experience, 1118  
 Poet's Poems, 909 [see also 974]  
 Prayer (Common) Book of, adapted for general use,  
 63; Green's Concordance, 223  
 Prætorius, 1394  
 Prætorius of England from Norman Conquest, by  
 Mrs. Green, Vol. IV., 669 [see also 701, 901, 844, 840]  
 Printing, Jurors' Reports, Great Exhibition, 1093  
 Process of Thought, by Alfred Smees, 379  
 Prophet of the Lost City, 404  
 Frau's (Madame) Residence in Algeria, 539  
 (naseby, by Elizabeth Wetherell, 574  
 (een Philippa's Golden Book, 347  
 (uinnana's Gonsalvo de Cordova, tr. by Russell, 17  
 (uinn's (C.) Notes on N.-W. Provinces of India, 1268  
 (uinn's (H.) British Constitution, 511  
 (uinn's Italian Grammar, 1241  
 (uinn's Life and Letters of R. Reynolds, 699  
 (uinn's Voyage, by Macgillivray, 12, 74  
 (uinn's Story with a Vengeance, 428; Claret and  
 (uinn, 452  
 (uinn (J. E.), Poetical Works of, 14  
 (uinn's of Glenfawn, 772  
 (uinn's Public: Rules and Regulations, &c., 51;  
 (uinn's New Building, 517; Thirteenth Report of the Deputy-  
 (uinn's Keeper, 721; How Public Documents should be arranged,  
 (uinn's 706; State Papers, 1212  
 (uinn's Legal Memoir, by F. W. Newman, 511  
 (uinn's (Capt.) Desert Home, 108; Boy Hunters, 1425  
 (uinn's (Dr.) Life of, by Wilson, 795  
 (uinn's Religion of Good Sense, by Richer, 1168  
 (uinn's Reminiscences and Reflections of Old Operative, 893  
 (uinn's Reminiscences of Thought and Feeling, 768  
 (uinn's Report of Commissioners of Exhibition: see Exhibi-  
 (uinn's tions of Industry and Art  
 (uinn's Report (17th) of Mercantile Library, Cincinnati, 675  
 (uinn's Reports and Suggestions, by the London Committee  
 (uinn's of Merchants, 1240  
 (uinn's Restoration, Lamartine's Hist. of, 322, 374, 1113, 1139  
 (uinn's Restoration of Belief, 1177  
 (uinn's Restoration, Policy of, by Adam, 695  
 (uinn's Roman Medicot, by M. W. Savage, 1059  
 (uinn's Revolution, French, by Louis Blanc, Vol. III., 422  
 (uinn's (Louis) Novels, 1325  
 (uinn's (Louis) Letters and Memoir, by Rathbone, 699  
 (uinn's Religion of Good Sense, 1168  
 (uinn's Rising and Thriving, 1394  
 (uinn's (Lord), Memoirs of, by Lord Albemarle,  
 (uinn's 185, 218  
 (uinn's History of Whig Ministry of 1830, 191, 215  
 (uinn's Regret's Treasury of English Words and Phrases, 989

Rolfe's Studies of Freshwater Fish, 50  
 Roman State, by Farini, tr. by Gladstone, 449  
 Romans under the Empire, Merivale's, Vol. III., 137  
 Rome, Catacombs of, by C. Macfarlane, 627  
 Rome in the Nineteenth Century, 627  
 Romer's (Mrs.) Filia Dolorosa, 723  
 Rough House, by Von Wedderkopf, 1167  
 Roughing It in the Bush, by Susanna Moodie, 247  
 Roswell's Letters to my Young-Men Friends, 428  
 Royalist and Republican, 1393  
 Rule's Brand of Dominic, 516  
 Rural Economy, 542  
 Rural Handbooks, Richardson's: Horses, The Cow,  
 The Dog, 1269  
 Russell's (Lord John) Moore, 1385, 1420  
 Russia, Notes upon, by Von Herberstein, 298, 1266;  
 Lives of Sovereigns, by F. Fowler, Vol. I., 791  
 Rutter on Magnetoid Currents, 50  
 Ryan on Preparations of Flax, 1178  
 St. John's (Bayle) Village Life in Egypt, 1111  
 St. John's (H.) Hist. of British Conquests in India, 607  
 St. John's (J. A.) Isis, 1202  
 St. John's (Lady) Augustus Courtenay, 1240  
 Sales: Books—Ben Jonson's Works, 199; 280; Miss  
 Porter's Correspondence, 353; Orleans Library, 381, 489;  
 Mr. Utterton's Library, 489; Cavalier and Roundhead  
 Correspondence, 654, 729; Queen Marie Antoinette's Library,  
 1069; Baron de Tremont's Collections, 1300; Books, 1395.  
 Picture Sales—see Fine Arts  
 Sandford's Chronology of Old Testament, 870  
 Sandys's History of Gavelkind, 542  
 Santa Fé to Navajo Country, by Simpson, 376  
 Santvoord's Life of Algernon Sidney, 379  
 Saunders's Duties, &c. of Justices of Peace, 1200  
 Saupe's Xenia of Goethe and Schiller, 1351  
 Savage's Reuben Mellicott, 1059  
 Sawyer's System of Book-keeping, 749  
 Schmidt's (Von) Hundred Short Tales, 1394  
 Scholcher's History of the Crimes of December, 1240  
 School for Fathers, by T. Gwynne, 428  
 School for Husbands, by Lady Bulwer Lytton, 80  
 Schubert's (Von) System of the Universe, 627  
 Scinde, Napier's Administration of, by Napier, 43  
 Scoffern's Projectile Weapons, 574; Sugar and Sugar  
 Apparatus, 652; Chemistry of Gold, 1064  
 Scoresby's Magnetical Investigations, Vol. II., 943  
 Scottish Songs, Illustrated Book of, 772  
 Scully's Notes on Ireland, 379  
 Sealsfield's Cabin Book, 1327  
 Searle's Memoirs of Ebenezer Elliott, 140  
 Sedgwick On Law of Storms, 1065  
 Sells (Rev. W.) Memoirs, by B. P. Smith, 574  
 Sferza of Metropolis, Gordon on Vetch's Plans, 46  
 Sforza (Fr.), Life and Times of, by Urquhart, 940  
 Shakespeare: The Companion Shakespeare, No. I., 50;  
 Shakespeare Society, Report, 490; Shakespeare and his  
 Times, by Guizot, 840; Puck, by W. Bell, 1035;  
 Early Manuscript Emendations, Mr. Collier's Commu-  
 nications, 142, 355; 171, 279; Note on Horatio, 199;  
 Note from J. C. 363; Halliwell's Few Remarks, 403;  
 Letter from T. A. O., 412—from Mr. Nasson Lettison,  
 439 [see also 459]; Halliwell's Prospectus, 752; Shak-  
 speare's House, 1299  
 Sharp's (Gr.) Prize Essay on Practical Banking, 404  
 Sharpe's History of Egypt, 893  
 Shaw's Tramp to the Diggings, 965  
 Shelley Letters, ed. by Browning, 214; discovered to  
 be Forgeries, 278, 301; Mr. White's Statement, 328; Sir  
 F. Madden's Letter, 355, 381; Mr. M. Milnes's 431  
 Shepherd's History of Church of Rome till 384, 541  
 Shrapnel's Stradametrical Survey of London, 299  
 Shrines and Sepulchres, by R. R. Madden, 271  
 Siberia, Recollections of, ed. by Col. Szyrma, 1170  
 Sicily, Letters from, 223; Three Months in, by Er-  
 nest Bruylas, 911; Pictures from, 1433  
 Sidney's Three Colonies of Australia, 965, 998  
 Sigourney's Faded Hope, 1357  
 Silent Footsteps, 1064  
 Simpson's Journey from Santa Fé to Navajo, 376  
 Sinclair's (Miss C.) Beatrice, 1064  
 Sinclair's (J.) Beauties of Nature, 354  
 Slave Power, Five Years' Progress, 428  
 Slave Trade, Letter to Lord Denman, 81  
 Slee's Guide for Authors, 574  
 Slingsby Papers, 483  
 Slous's Waldeck, 1110 [see also 1154]  
 Smees's Process of Thought, 379  
 Smith's (Albert) Comic Tales and Sketches, 651;  
 Pictures of Life at Home and Abroad, 679  
 Smith's (Capt.) Italian Irrigation, 1419  
 Smith's (C. H. J.) Parks and Pleasure Grounds, 1088  
 Smith's (C. R.) Collectanea Antiqua, Vol. II., 745  
 Smith's (C. L.) Trans. of Tasso's Gerusalemme, 107  
 Smith's (T.) Practical Book-keeping, 330  
 Smith's (Toulmin): see Beck (Baroness von)  
 Smith's (Dr. W.) Greek and Roman Geography, 49  
 Smith's (W. L. G.) Uncle Tom's Cabin as it is, 1173  
 Smith and Elliott's Excavations at Lygne, 864  
 Societies, The Learned, of London, 773; Letter from  
 an Officer, 1393; Letter from Mr. Airy, Report of Astro-  
 nomical Society, and Comments, 1426 [see also Exhibitions]

SOCIETIES: [Important Papers only are referred to.]  
 Antiquaries—55, 120, 145, 201, 227, 236, 337, 383, 408, 491,  
 579, 606, 631, 702; Bruce's Letter, 605; 605; Reform in  
 Society, Correspondence, &c., 628, 633; Mr. Pettigrew's  
 Letter, 671; 700, 776, 909, 1269, 1383, 1383, 1429  
 Archaeological Institute—Meeting at Newcastle  
 Asiatic—Griffith on Indian Poetical Rhetoric, 130; Evening  
 Meetings, 227; 255; Ravilinson on Nineveh Discoveries,  
 337, 1362; Capper on Vegetable Productions of Ceylon,  
 357; Bird on Ethnological Research, 407; Anniversary  
 Meeting, 606; 678, 727; Royle on the Vedas, 802; 1362  
 Botanical—55, 1333  
 Chemical—250, 491  
 Entomological—36, 228, 358, 432, 540, 702, 802, 875, 1096,  
 1151, 1246, 1397  
 Ethnological—409, 1302, 1429  
 Geographical—Thornton's Account of Orizava, 117; Sygne  
 on Communication betwixt Atlantic and Pacific, 118,  
 173 [see also 1017]; Lieut. Pim's Return from St. Peters-  
 burg, 280; Livingston's Discoveries in South Africa, 292,  
 460; 329; Beaton on Arctic Expedition—Gassiot on  
 South Africa, 383; 409; Galton's Explorations in South-  
 West Africa, 547; 579; Anniversary, 606; 701; Peter-  
 mann on Sir J. Franklin, 1245; Ingfield's Arctic Voyage,  
 1300; Strachey's Expedition into Western Tibet, 1438  
 Geological—Hopkins on the Cause of Changes of Climate,  
 119; Weston on late of Portland, 145; Clarke and Mur-  
 chinson on Gold in Australia, 2267; Sedgwick on Older  
 Palæozoic Rocks, 302; Biofield's Notes on St. Helena,  
 336; Logan on Potsdam Sandstone of Lower Canada, 383;  
 Prestwich on Holmthorpe Flint, 490; 541, 547, 631, 655, 737;  
 Sedgwick on Caradoc Sandstone, 1246; 1301, 1362, 1429  
 Horticultural—358, 432, 649, 1162, 1214, 1363  
 Institute of Actuaries—22, 230, 304, 344, 429; Brown on Un-  
 form Action of Human Will, 632; Tompkins on Laws of  
 Sickness and Mortality, 753; 1333  
 Institute of British Architects—36, 174, 228, 250, 339; Meeting  
 in Westminster Abbey, 356, 358, 406; Clayton on Towers  
 and Spires of Wren's London Churches, 548; Annual  
 Meeting—Report on the Tombs in the Abbey, 606; Pen-  
 rose on Painting of St. Paul's Cathedral, 753; Smith on  
 Enlargement of National Gallery, 1301—its Proposed Re-  
 moval, 1362; Burrell's Excursion in Gallia, 1397  
 Institution of Civil Engineers—22; New President's Address,  
 66; Redman on South-Eastern Coast of England, 121,  
 146, 174; 229, 257, 358, 394, 409, 438; Foote on Railways  
 as a Means of Transit, 461; Huish on Railway Accidents,  
 491, 548, 580; Conversation, 607; 624; Brooks on Tidal  
 Navigations, 1246; 1273; Rawlinson on Drainage of  
 Towns, 1302; 1333, 1363, 1397; Annual Meeting, 1430  
 Linnean—121, 228, 358, 408, 461, 607, 631, 702, 1214, 1273,  
 1363, 1429  
 Meteorological—302, 590; Hoskins on Guernsey, 679  
 Microscopical—55, 174, 329, 548, 631, 737, 1302 [see also 1361]  
 Numismatic—1301  
 Philological—220, 302, 548  
 Royal Institution—Faraday on Lines of Magnetic Force,  
 175; Brande on Electro-magnetic Clocks, 229; Scott Rus-  
 sell on Wave-line Ships and Yachts, 303; Grove on Elec-  
 tricity and Magnetism, 304; 359; 384; Carpenter on In-  
 fluences over Muscular Movement, 448; 500; Forbes on  
 Analogy betwixt Life of an Individual and that of a  
 Species, 635; Faraday on Physical Lines of Magnetic  
 Force, 776; 1363  
 Royal Society—Wheatstone's Bakerian Lecture, 117, 395;  
 460, 547, 631, 726; Unconfirmed Minutes, 773; Anniver-  
 sary, 1332  
 Royal Society of Literature—22, 228, 302; Colquhoun on His-  
 tory of Usury, 357; 432, 547, 631, 655, 1246, 1391, 1397  
 Society of Arts—Wilson on Steam Candle Manufacture,  
 229; Custom-house Arrangements, 406; Bazley on Cotton,  
 409; Memorial on Duty on Foreign Goods, 400 [see 408]  
 Statistical—Crawford on Statistics of Coffee, 120; Fletcher  
 on Employment of Farm Schools, 256; Nelson on Mor-  
 tality among Medical Men, 408; 461; Guy on Remission  
 of Taxes, 702; 1332; Locke on Vi-ation and Purchase  
 of Land in Ireland, 1333; 1428  
 Syro-Egyptian—97, 230, 329; French Excavations at Mem-  
 phis, 702; 1273, 1430  
 Zoological—1273, 1363  
 BRITISH ASSOCIATION—Preliminary Gossip, 67, 874. Meetings of  
 General Committee, 918, 977. Treasurer's Account, General Meet-  
 ing, and President's Address, 147. Secretaries' Reports, 977.  
 General Meeting, 978, 1019, 1043. Surplus, 1286  
 Sec. A.—Mathematical and Physical Science.—Powell on Luminous  
 Meteors—Russell on Storms—Birt on Zodiacal Light—Rankine  
 on Mechanical Energy of Universe, and on Temperature of Rivers  
 —Thomson on Magnetic Curves, and on Spherical Conductors  
 —Brewster on Form of Images, 874. Brewster on a Rock Crystal  
 Lens—Lord Roske's Nebulae—Joule on Thermal Effects of Air-  
 Sygne on Phenomena of a Solar Eclipse, 874. Tyndall on Gen-  
 eral Peculiarities of Organic Substances—M Farland on Fata  
 Morgana of Ireland—Brewster on Vision without Retina—  
 Forbes on Heat generated by Galvanic Battery—Naumth on  
 Asteroids—Waterston on Density in Saturated Vapours, 880.  
 Thomson on Conduction of Heat—Matteucci on Magnetism—  
 Brewster on Diffraction—Clouet on a Microscopic Camera—  
 Twining's New Instrument—Thomson on Ferro-Magnetic Sub-  
 stances—Tyndall on Magneto-Crystalline Action, 1010. Meteorology  
 of North America—Sykes on Rain in Bengal, &c.—Bullist on At-  
 mospheric Fluctuations—Wald on Balloon Observations, 1011.  
 Lloyd on Meteorology of Ireland—Taylor on Tropical Hurri-  
 canes—Wells on Meteorology of Birmingham—Rankine's Meteorol-  
 ogical Summary, 1851, 1012.  
 Iron Ships—Strachey on Wet-bulb Thermometer, 1010. Hamil-  
 ton on Biquaternions—Stokes on Optical Properties of Quinine—  
 Smyth on Reflecting Instrument used at Sec.—Towson on New  
 Instrument—Brewster on Dove's Theory of Lustre, 1011. Tynd-  
 all on a New Thermometer of Contact—Bryce on Chinese Arith-  
 metical Notation—Prof. Hooper and Mr. Watts on Aurora, 1048  
 Sec. B.—Chemical Science.—Wood on Chemical Constitution, &c.—  
 Hodges on Flax Crop—Gladstone on Vital Powers of Plants—  
 Andrews on Platinum and Barium, 981. Knox on Moon's Rays—  
 Macdonnell on Magnesium—Bollart on Common Salt—Graham  
 on Liquids—Stokes on Optical Phenomena in Chemistry—  
 Arjho on Mechanical Power—Brazier on Irish Salt-Butter,  
 1013. Ronalds on Oil of the Sunfish—Lawes and Gilbert on Com-  
 position of Food—Hodges on Greenland and Greenland, &c.—  
 Tennant on Koh-i-noor Diamond—Bateson on Glynn & Ap-  
 pell's Patent Paper, 1049  
 Sec. C.—Geology and Physical Geography.—New Geological Map of  
 Ireland, 961. Fleming on Rocks of the Upper Punjab—M' Coy

## SOCIETIES—continued.

- On certain Fossil Fishes, 332. Griffith on Carboniferous Series of Ireland—Jukes on Devonian Rocks of South of Ireland—Forbes on Fossils, 101. Bryce on Counties of Down and Antrim—King on Permian Fossils—Brewster on Diamond—Vicary on Himalayah Mountains—Stanger on Furrows, &c. by Drift Sand, 101. Sec. D.—*Zoology, Botany and Physiology*.—Dieble on Plants in North of Ireland—Allman on Anacardi—Patterson on Fauna of Ireland, and on Freshwater Fishes of Ulster—Forbes on Sepolia—M'Cosh on Branches and Leaves of Plants—Royle on Teas, 383. Dieble on Echinosia—Hamilton on Lobelia—Lahou, 38. Grainger's Shells at Belfast, 101. Lankester on the Growth and Vitality of Seeds—Ogilby on Geographical Distribution of Animals—Thomson on Sertularian Zoophytes—Allman on a Microscopic Alga—Dieble on Marine Alga, 101. Forbes on a New Map of the Geological Distribution of Marine Life—Barry on Vent of a Black Red-start—Munro on Triticum—Fowler on Vitality in Sleep, 103.
- Sec. E.—*Geography and Ethnology*.—Allen on Ancient Harbour of Scelencia—Hinks on Assyrian Inscriptions—Alsworth on a Railroad through Asia Minor—Macdon on Ascent of Niger—Sykes on Possessions of the Innam of Muscat, 384. Hinks on Ancient Mines, 1013. Petermann on Life in Arctic Regions—Chesney on Routes to India, 1016. Allen on Valley of Dead Sea—Sykes on Communication with India—Hume on District of Down and Antrim, 1017.
- Sec. F.—*Statistics*.—Sykes on Island of Bombay—Porter on Industry of Paris—Hancock on Free and Slave Labour—Ogilby on Laws of Currency in Ireland, 383, 1018. Locke on Excessive Emigration, 383. Heywood's Statistics of University of Oxford—Hancock on Sewal Mullia Harbour in Ireland, 1018. Allison on Paupers in Scotland—Hancock on Gold Standard—Wilde on Leaf and Dumb in Ireland, 1018. M'Cormac on Atmospheric Impurity and Diseases—Harcourt on Literary Condition of Belfast—Strong on Steamboat Building on Clyde, 1013.
- Sec. G.—*Mechanical Sciences*.—Fairbairn on Iron Plates, and on Mechanical Properties of Metals—Gladstone on Malleable Bells and Girders, 388. Saunders on Safety Harbours—Phillips on Gas in Wallend Colliery—Rankine and Thomson on Telegraph between Great Britain and Ireland—Bakewell on Telegraph Communication—Walker on Tides—Allison on Latices—Girders, 387. Thomson on the Jet Pump, and on Vortex Wheels, 1019. Fairbairn on Minie Rifle, and on New Tubular Boiler—Goldwin's New Steeper—Garrett on Harbour at Belfast, 1019. Smith on Pearse and Bonnett's Heliograph—Thomson on Whirling Fluids—Rankine on Process for Cooling Air—Ward on Production of Gold by Mechanical Means—Smith on Fairhead Harbour, 1014.

- Soils and Manures, by Donaldson, 379
- Solvan, by Amari, 1233
- Southey on Colonial Sheep and Wool, 541
- Spain, Modern Poets and Poetry, by Kennedy, 789
- Sparks's (Jared), Letters to and from Lord Mahon, 934
- Spencer's Cross Manor House, 404
- Spillan's Stage and Press, 574; Rival Operas, 730
- Stage, Book of the, 602
- Stamboul and Sea of Gens, 1419
- Stansbury's Expedition to Lake of Utah, 1085, 1115
- State of Man subsequent to Pronouncement of Christianity, Part II., 416, Part III., 416
- Stenography, by Hart and Monteth, 1209
- Stephen's Royal Pardon Vindicated, 253
- Stiff's Pictures of Life, trans. by Mary Howitt, 651
- Stiles's Austria in 1848-9, 817
- Stirling's Cloister Life of Charles V., 1135
- Stockhardt's Principles of Chemistry, 253
- Stories for Summer Days and Winter Nights, 1036
- Story (Judge), Life and Letters, by W. Story, 213
- Story with a Vengeance, by Reach and Brooks, 428
- Story without an End, 50
- Stout's Autobiography, ed. by Harland, 18
- Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin, 574, 1173; Four Ways of Observing the Sabbath, 1240 [see also 1273]
- Stuart's Caledonia Romana, 1208
- Sullivan's Rambles and Scrambles in N. America, 1060
- Summer and Winter of the Soul, by E. Neale, 1355
- Sunlight in the Clouds, 870
- Surtees, Memoir of, by Taylor, 837, 866 [see also 901]
- Surtees Society: Boldon Buke, ed. by Greenwell, 1201
- Sussex Archaeological Collections, Vol. V., 937
- Sutherland's Voyage in Baffin's Bay, 883
- Syllogism as Extensive and as Comprehensive, by J. Brown, 823
- Symonds's Sleep and Dreams, 352
- Synges's Great Britain One Empire, 1145 [see 1218]
- Szyrma's Recollections of Siberia, 1170

- Tagus and Tiber, by W. E. Baxter, 349
- Tau-Kwang, Life of, by Guttsalz, 274
- Tapping's Chronicle of Edward Manlove, 169
- Tasso's Jerusalem Delivered, by C. L. Smith, 107
- Taxation, by Gordon, 18
- Taylor's Memoir of R. Surtees, 837, 866 [see also 901]
- Telfer's Tales and Ballads, 515
- Temperance Offering, 1036
- Templar's Letters, 456
- Tennyson's Ode on Duke of Wellington, 1263
- Thackeray's Esmond, 1199
- Thaly's Fortress of Cornon, 844

## THEATRES—

- Covent Garden: Italian Opera—Programme, 307. Opening of Season. Maria di Rohan: Mlle. Castellan, Mdlle. Seguin, 316. Ronconi, 304. Guiseppe Tell: Ronconi's Guiseppe—Anders's debut, 416. La Maritima: Mlle. Jeanne, M. Tamberlik, 303. Mlle. Grist, 407. Mario, 623. Il Flauto Magico—Lucia, 323. La Juive: M. Guemard, Mlle. Juliette, 336. L'Elisir: Mlle. Bosc, Rigi, Gualini and Bartolini, 603. Le Proscrit: Mlle. Grist's Fides, 731. Otello, 737. Faust: Ronconi and Tamberlik, Madame Castellan, Herr Formes, 730. Negrina's debut, 277. Juliet's Pietro il Grande, 305. Opera Season, 1851. Mlle. Bosc, 308. Drury Lane: Fazio: Miss Glynn—The Belle's Stratagem: Miss Fitzpatrick, 25. Miss Glynn—The Hunchback, Lady Macbeth, 192. Robert the Devil: Mlle. Evelyn Garcia, M. Fodor, Mr. Drayton, Miss Crichton—Fra Diavolo—Romeo and Juliet: Miss H. Fawcett, 157. Mlle. de Saxe, 303. Too Late for the Train—Miss Crichton, 233. Benefit for the Amazon, 303. Star of the Rhine, 253. Mr. Balfe's Sicilian Bride, 303. Lucretia Borgia, 331. Reopening, 435. Close of

## THEATRES—continued.

- Season, 306. Summer Season—Mr. Buchanan's Hamlet, 838. Close of Season: Season, 303. Richelieu, 1038. M. Julien's Promenade Concert, 1274.
- German Plays.—Egmont: Herron Devrient and Kohn, 636. Don Carlos, 636. Kebab and Liebe—Katschke's Comedies, 609. Der Majoratserbe—Hamlet, 633. Emilia Galotti—Faust, 707. Die Kaiserin, 731.
- Haymarket.—Mr. Howard Glover's Aminta, 194. A Duel in the Dark, 177. Mr. Barry Sullivan's Hamlet, 294. Woman's Heart, 232. White Magic, 331. Corsican Brothers, 435. Money: Mr. Barry Sullivan's Evelyn, 405 [see also 1063]. Mind Your Own Business, 50. Cecily Worried by Buckstone, 603. The Foundlings, 602 [see also 1139]. A Novel Expedition, 731. Our New Lady's Maid, 403. Writing on the Wall, 877. Jack Sheppard, 976. The Woman I Adore—Road to Ruin: Miss Ross Bennett's debut—Box and Cox Married and Settled, 1139. Richelieu in Love, 1216. A Capital Match, 1239. Masks and Faces, 1304. Her Majesty—331, 362, 336. Opening of Season—Maria di Rohan: Sig. Feriotti's debut—Mlle. Guy Stephan, 416. L'Eschiana in Algeria, 433. Mlle. Cruvelli's Norma, 463, 407. Ernani, 538. Meeting of Perfidia, 611. Madame de la Grange—Don Pasquale, 631. Il Barbiere: Sig. de Bassini's debut, 731. La Prova—Leur de Bassini's Cheuvreu, 727. Otello—La Cenerentola: Mlle. Favanti, 803. La Sonnambula: Mlle. Chanton's debut, 923. Casilda: Mlle. Chanton, 923. Balfe's Benefit. New Project, 1069. Marguerite—Tempest—Hunchback, 466. Mr. Buchanan's Sir Giles Overreach, 611.
- Olympic.—Merchant of Venice: Mrs. Mend's Portia—Granic Affection, 83. A Conspirator in Spite of Himself, 167. Macrius, 204. Mlle. Saz Lapou's Juliet, 209. Cleopatra, 283. Last of the Fairies, 206. Friend of Earth, 231. Camberwell Brothers, 434. Honesty the Best Policy, 466. Warden of Galway, 466. Exchange of Presents, 611. Emeralds, 636. Bag of Gold—Butcher's Debut, 731 [see also 737]. Sink or Swim—Miss Gordon's debut, 857. Field of Terror, 877. The Master Passion, 884. Uncle Tom's Cabin, 1039. Wanted, 1009. Young Milliner, 1068. Sarah Blane, 1154. Goto-Bod Tom, 1303. Hunchback: Mlle. E. Hernand's debut, 1308.
- Princess's.—Mr. C. Keane's Sir E. Mortimer, 25. King John, 204. Corsican Brothers, 229. Our Clerks, 390. Whittikin and his Brothers, 433. A Lucky Friar, 525. Trial of Love, 639. Vampire, 637. Man of the World—Ailsa Well that Ends Well, 625. Lear, 176. Arden of Feversham—City Madam, 192. Woman Never Vext, 1122. Henry the Fifth, 1185. Might and Right, 1269.
- St. James's.—Mrs. Kemble's Readings—Midsummer Night's Dream, 178. French Plays—M. Lafont and Mdlle. Delajet, 233. M. Lemaitre and Mdlle. Charise, 303. Mlle. Denuin and M. Regnier, 405. M. Lorange, 405. Close of Season, 739.
- Soho.—Richelieu: Mr. Walter Shelley, 1366.
- Surry.—The Devil in it, 828.
- Mr. Albert Smith's Ascent of Mont Blanc, 1334.
- Marionette Theatre, 83, 435. Ebony Marionettes, 1366.
- Orpheum Palace, 1073.
- Mr. Woodin's Entertainment, 1183.
- The Diame of M. Agnier, 306.

- Thesaurus of English Words & Phrases, by Roget, 939
- Thiele's Life of Thorwaldsen, 479
- Thompson's Passions of Animals, 42
- Thompson on Tubular Drainage, 844
- Thomson on Life Assurance Interests, 1146
- Thomson's Western Himalaya and Tibet, 1031
- Thorpe's Northern Mythology, 250
- Thorwaldsen's Life, by Thiele, tr. by Helms, 479
- Thoughts on Several Subjects, 1117
- Three Kingdoms of Nature, by M. Le Maout, 1174
- Three Years in Europe, by W. W. Brown, 1056
- Tieck's Sommerliche, by Albert Cohn, 516
- Topography, British, History, Dialects, Tracts, 941
- Torrens's Tracts on Finance and Trade, 917
- Trail's Canadian Crusades, 1054
- Trump to the Diggings, by Dr. Shaw, 965
- Treasures of Oxford—Jewish Authors in Spain, 497
- Treasure-Seeker's Daughter, by H. Lawrence, 1091
- Tregelles, Janensis, 198; On New Testament, 844
- Tremenheere's Notes on United States and Canada, 446; Political Experience of the Ancients, 724
- Trench on Study of Words, 378
- Trigonometry, by Hemming, 1241; by Coleuso, 1295
- Troloper's (Mrs.) Uncle Walter, 1169
- Troosting's Fortnight in England, 742
- Tupper's Dirge for Wellington, 1035
- Turner's Laws of Patents, 380
- Two Families, 109
- Two Vocations, 1357
- Tyler's Leila at Home, 404

- Uncle Sam, by Charles Casey, 886
- Uncle Tom's Cabin, by Stowe, 574, 1173, 1393; as it is, by Smith, 1173; Companions, by J. P. Edwards, 1294; Peep into, 1393; for Children, 1394
- Uncle Tom in England, 1056
- Uncle Walter, by Mrs. Troloper, 1169
- United States and Canada, Tremeneheere's Notes, 646
- Universe, System of, by Von Schubert, 627

- Universities, Colleges, &c.: Oxford University Commission, 604, 629, 1177—Felding Bequest, 677; Cambridge Commissioners' Report, 1241; University of London and the Graduates' Movement, 254, 577, 735—Admission to Degrees, 517—Report of Select Committee, 631—Letter from another Graduate, 930—Prof. Foster's Pamphlet, 1269—Foster's Letter, 1296—Representation in Parliament, 1213—Medical Examinations, 1299; University of Edinburgh, Professor of Greek, 279—Prof. McDougall's Election, 634; University of Glasgow, Election of Rectorship, 1272; Scotland, Test System, 301, 1361; Surgical

- Diploma of the University of Dublin and College of Surgeons, 19, 1068; University College, London, 534—Williamson Place, 1066; Queen's College, Birmingham, 144, 1306; Elizabeth College, Guernsey, 407; Dulwich College, 1399; New Industrial University, 172, 1390
- Upholsterer's Guide, by Arrowsmith, 223
- Upper Ten Thousand, 253
- Urquhart's (D.) Mystery of the Danube, 488
- Urquhart's (W. P.) Life and Times of Stora, 940
- Use of Sunshine, The, 80
- Utah, Lake of, Expedition, by Stansbury, 1085, 1115

- Vacher's Parliamentary Companion, 844, 1177
- Vagaries of Life, by W. W. Cairnes, 699
- Vegetation of Europe, by Arthur Henfrey, 913
- Village Queen, by T. Miller, 167
- Visitation of Seats &c., by Burke, 421
- Voix Mystérieuse, La, 1269
- Von Arnim's Flying Troupe, 813
- Von Beck: see Beck (Baroness von)
- Von Herberstein's Notes on Russia, Vol. I., 208, 1296
- Von Wedderkop's Rough House, 1167
- Voss's Louisa, by Cochrane, 933

- Wages, Rate of, by M. Culloch, 269
- Waldeck, by M. A. Slous, 1110 [see also 1154]
- Walker (W. S.), Poetical Remains of, by Moultrie, 731
- Wallace, 298
- Walton's Sketch of River Ebro, 1269
- Wanderer in Syria, by G. W. Curtis, 507
- Warner's Position, &c., of British Dominions, 541
- Washington, Life of, ed. by Upham, 425
- Water Supply of London, The, 1242
- Weaver of Quellburn, 223
- Webb on Present Condition of Ireland, 1240

- Wellington: Duke of, Poetical Illustrations, by G. De Renzy, 942; Dirge for, by M. F. Tupper, 1033; Military History in India, 1209; Elegies, Poems, &c., 'The Dead Wellington,' by E. P., 1242; Ode, by A. Tenney, 1263; Life of, by Stocquer—Life and Character, by the Earl of Eglinton—Wellingtonians, by John Timbs, 1263; Wellington—Wellington and Waterloo—Military and Political Life, 1290; Wellington as a Warrior, by Rev. J. Binney—Wellington Souvenir—Wellington Lyrics, by Mrs. Smith—Wellington; or, the Mission of Napoleon, 1291; Place and Day of his Birth, by Murray, 1337; Wellington Atlas, by Wylde, 1393; Wellington Relics, 1296; Gospel, 1437-8

- Welsh Sketches, 113, 1210
- Werne's African Wanderings, 770
- West Indies, Day's Five Years' Residence, 454
- Wetherell's (Elizabeth) Queechy, 574
- Wheeler's Analysis of New Testament History, 1249
- Whewell's Lectures on Moral Philosophy, 513; Liberal Education—Revised Statutes, 1013, 2, 542
- Whig Ministry of 1830, by Roebuck, 191, 215
- Whig Party, Memoirs of, by Lord Holland, Vol. I., 905
- White's (R.) Madeira, 276
- White's (H.) Sacred History, 223
- White Rose of the Huron, 1424
- White Slave, ed. by Hildreth, 1173
- Wide World, The, 81
- Wiesbaden, Meeting of German Naturalists, 1065
- Wild's (Justus) England as it is, 253
- Wilde's Irish Popular Superstitions, 603
- Wilkes (John), 7, 46
- Wilks's (A. F.) The Popes, 253
- Wilks's (Washington) Half-Century, 652
- Williams's Our Iron Roads, 1208
- Willich's Popular Tables, 1146
- Wilson's (G.) Life of Dr. Reid, 795
- Wilson's (J. C.) Village Pearl, 1209
- Wilson's (Prof.) Burmese War in 1824-6, 625
- Wilson's (T.) England's Foreign Policy, 1210
- Wilton and its Associations, by Smith, 324
- Witnesses in Sackcloth, 942
- Woman's Life, by Emilie Carlen, 719
- Women of Christianity, by Julia Kavanagh, 104
- Woodhead's Atmosphere, 844
- Woods's Sixteen Months at the Gold Diggings, 251
- Woolton's Christian Manual, 917
- Words, on the Study of, by R. C. Trench, 378
- Worlds Hydrographical Description, by Davis, 19
- Worsaae's Danes and Norwegians in England, 104
- Wren (Sir C.), by J. Elmes, 455 [see also 518]
- Wright's (J.) Britain's Last Struggles, 225
- Wright's Manual of Universal History, 772
- Wright's (J. B.) Celt, Roman, &c., 771 [see 801]
- Wylie's Fairfield Graves, 819
- Wynville, 273

- Xenia of Goethe and Schiller, by Saupé, 1321

- Young's Introduction to Algebra, 141
- Young Traveller's Journal, 253
- Yr Ynys Unyg, 1394

- Zinkeisen's Jacobin Club, Part I., 1117
- Zoology of Herald, by Forbes and Richardson, 120
- Zoroaster's Vendidad, First Five Chapters, 603
- Zschokke's Labour stands on Golden Feet, 404





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LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1852.

## REVIEWS

JOHN WILKES.

*History of England.* By Lord Mahon. Vols. V. and VI.

HAVING reviewed this work a fortnight since, we must apologize to his Lordship for taking a mere incidental reference therein as a text whereon to enlarge after our own free will. We hinted at a similar intention long since in our notice of one of Lord Brougham's volumes;—but time and opportunity do not always serve.

No one, as we lately said, can in this nineteenth century have any desire to make a hero of John Wilkes. The prejudices, feelings, virtues, vices of the age,—all run counter to such Quixotic daring. There is not enough of the blood of the martyrs left in literary hearts to stimulate even its enthusiasts to fight for a dead and almost forgotten reputation. Yet, we must own that, as literary journalists, we have an occasional twinge of conscience on this subject. Thus, it gave us a sharp momentary pang when, to serve a selfish and temporary purpose, Lord Brougham poured out his vituperation on the memory of John Wilkes. Since then, scarcely a writer has adverted to the period who has not followed his Lordship's example, and given evidence of his morality at the easy rate of a like reprobation.

We, of course, have no objection to see the vices of an age fairly stated, and freely censured; but we have a great objection to see one man made the scape-goat for a generation. Even in condemning the vices themselves, care should be taken that we do not—

Compound for sins we are inclined to  
By damning those we have no mind to,—

and we of the nineteenth century have happily "no mind to" the particular vices which flourished in the reigns of George the First and George the Second. Personally, indeed, we have very little love for the virtues which then passed current, either in Court or in Conventicle. The age united in itself the lifeless forms of old Partisanship with the licentiousness of the Restoration, stripped of its joyousness and vivacity. The one, wanting earnestness, enthusiasm, and noble self-devotion, had dwindled down into dull formalism—into a passive, not an active life;—while the other, wanting the spirit of youth, had nothing left but its disgusting grossness. With some noble exceptions,—and, of course, with the exception of the great body of the sound-hearted middle class, which always keeps the even tenor of its way,—society might then have been divided into two widely separated parties. Antagonism was a condition of the existence of either. Each had its war-cry, its party banner, its miserable shibboleth. Wilkes belonged to the one, and his wife to the other; but the sins of the one party are no more to be visited on Wilkes than those of the other on Mrs. Wilkes.

Wilkes had vices enough in all conscience:—few men in that age who came prominently before the public were without them. But the character of Wilkes which passes current in our literature is the mere daubing of faction on an outline sketch by hireling pens. Wilkes was not the exceptional man he is now represented to have been. He was, indeed, even in private life, superior to numbers numberless of high gentilities and nobilities who, on his accession, received the patronage and protection of George the Third. Seen and considered in the dim twilight morality of the age, Wilkes was not a bad man. He was a bad husband certainly; and unless contemporary records are false, there was a plentiful crop of them at the

period;—nor, unless the proceedings in our law and police courts be pure fictions, are they an extinct golden-pippin race even now. His wife is entitled to our deepest sympathy,—but not to all. Some little may be spared to a young and highly-educated man—a wit, a scholar, and a gentleman—with the lightest and gayest of hearts, buoyant of spirit, fascinating of manner to an extent that won admiration from older, wiser, and better men, as the dedication of the learned and religious Andrew Baxter testifies—not yet two-and-twenty, and just returned from his travels, when, by the controlling advice of his family and the well-meant management of the lady's mother, he was married to a woman half as old again as himself, brought up in the strictest forms of dissent, and into a family which, having fortune at command, lived before or after, or both, dull and contented, in the smoky obscurity of Red Lion Court. We repeat, that we sincerely pity Mrs. Wilkes. We doubt not, that had she been properly matched she might have passed a happier life. So might Wilkes; and surely a woman of more than two-and-thirty is not less responsible for her actions and their consequences than a young man not quite two-and-twenty. After all fair allowance, however, Wilkes on this point must still remain justly censurable,—and to just censure we are content to leave him.

It was Wilkes's misfortune while yet in "the heyday of the blood" to become the associate of men of higher rank and greater fortune than himself. Weary of the monotonous dullness of Red Lion Court,—he removed to Great George Street, and entered into fashionable life. His fashionable friends soon and easily persuaded him to become a candidate for Berwick. This election, in which he was unsuccessful, cost him between three and four thousand pounds. In 1757, however, he was elected member for Aylesbury:—under what circumstances or on what conditions is not exactly known. "The great Commoner," Mr. Pitt, member for Okehampton, when he entered the Ministry was invited to offer himself for Bath; on this his friend, Mr. Potter, resigned Aylesbury and presented himself at Okehampton. New writs were moved for both places on the same day, thus showing previous concert. Pitt was chosen for Bath, Potter for Okehampton, and Wilkes for Aylesbury. "The business," Almon tells us, "was very adroitly managed, by modes which we are yet too near the time to explain." \* \* It may be said, with the strictest truth, that this affair from its commencement to its conclusion cost Mr. Wilkes upwards of seven thousand pounds,—for he was the person who paid for all." Yet, we have read this very week in one of our liberal newspapers, that Wilkes "betook himself to patriotism to repair his fortune." If so, the repairs were somewhat costly. The very day after his election Wilkes wrote to Mr. Pitt, to assure him how happy he was that it was now in his power "to contribute more than my warmest wishes for the support of his wise and excellent measures."

Fashionable life, however, its habits, manners, morals, all ran counter to the education and feelings of Mrs. Wilkes,—and she separated from her husband and returned to her mother. The especial provocation, however, which led to the separation, as we learn from Almon,—who apologizes for Mrs. Wilkes—was that "amongst the persons brought into the house were Thomas Potter, Esq., member for Aylesbury, and son to the Archbishop of that name,—Lord Sandwich,—Sir Francis Dashwood, afterwards Lord Le Despencer,—and many others of similar disposition and manners." We have no doubt that Mrs. Wilkes had good reasons for the

step which she took,—but those assigned seem to us scarcely sufficient. At any rate, be it remembered that this same shocking Thomas Potter was not only the son of an archbishop, but the especial friend and confidential correspondent of Mr. Pitt, who describes him at this very time (1756) as "one of the best friends I have in the world,"—and he had been Secretary to the Prince of Wales, the father of George the Third;—that Sir Francis Dashwood was honoured, among the earliest, by the patronage of George the Third, who appointed him Chancellor of the Exchequer, raised him to the peerage, and when Lord Temple was removed from the Lord Lieutenancy of Buckinghamshire nominated Lord Le Despencer as his successor;—and that Sandwich held the high office of Secretary of State or that of First Lord of the Admiralty for some dozen or more years under George the Third. In truth, so little was morality thought of at that time amongst the higher classes, that Sandwich offered himself with the king's countenance and the support of the minister as High Steward for the University of Cambridge, and divided votes in exact equality with Lord Hardwick.

What wonder that a young, inexperienced, flattered, and fooled *parvenu* should be misled by such lights and influences. If Wilkes wrote an obscene parody, it is pretty generally agreed that his senior, the archbishop's son, wrote the notes,—and Sir Francis Dashwood, Lord Le Despencer, got painted worthy companion pictures. Lord Mahon confirms what Mr. Tooke tells us—what indeed is well known, but we like on such occasions to speak by the card,—that "there was for many years in the great room at the King's Arms Tavern in Old Palace Yard an original picture of Sir Francis Dashwood, presented by himself to the *Dilettanti Club*. He is in the habit of a Franciscan, kneeling before the Venus de Medici, and having a bumper in his hand, with the words '*matri sanctorum*' in capitals." If this description were not disgusting enough, and more than enough, we could heighten the colouring by some particulars here judiciously omitted. On it Mr. Tooke observes,— "a not unuseful record, and, it may be hoped, warning, of the most flagrant outrages upon decency of the men of that generation." Such warnings are quite needless,—our age has happily no toleration for like offences. The wisdom, and charity, which it should teach is, not to pile up our indignation against the vices of a generation on the head of one man.

Of this Parody, which not five, but fifty times we have seen outrageously condemned, let us say, that it was never our fortune to meet with a single man who had read it. We are not satisfied, indeed, that copies are now in existence. Wilkes asserted at the time that "the most vile blasphemies were forged and published" as extracts from the work; and we suspect that the copies which are mysteriously sold at high prices by disreputable dealers have been manufactured for the market, and the "vile blasphemies" inserted therein to give the flavour of age. But assume the work to have been as bad as described,—must we not judge it as a question of manners rather than of morals; not by abstract and eternal principles, but by those shifting lights which, dull or obscure as they may be, are to the great bulk of mankind the only lights of their age? Wilkes, in reference to the attack by Chatham, stated in his letter to the Duke of Grafton that Chatham had seen the work, so shamefully dragged into notice and wantonly denounced, years before in manuscript, and had highly commended it. If this were



true—and we see no sufficient reason to doubt it, the more especially considering who wrote the notes, and how intimate the writer was with Pitt,—it proves such offences to have been so common that a man like Pitt, the moral purity of whose private life was as “one entire and perfect chrysolite,” did not think it becoming in him to reprove the writer when we, judging from our feelings and his virtues, should have supposed that he would have knocked him down with his crutch. We have no intention to apologize for offences of this nature,—they are to us loathsome and detestable; but we cannot forget that we have been taught and trained in a purer and better age,—an age in which, whatever other vices it may have, such offences could not be committed without outraging the feelings of the humblest reader.

Further, be it remembered, this Parody if written by Wilkes at all was written several years before 1763,—when, as Chesterfield said sarcastically, a mercy and a miracle “raised up the Earl of Sandwich to vindicate and promote true religion and morality.” We have hinted a doubt as to the writer because we entertain one,—and that notwithstanding Wilkes’s apparent acknowledgment. Wilkes was just the wilful, obstinate man who would take anything on himself if threatened with consequences. We could urge many, and some strong, circumstances on which our doubt rests, if this were a fit occasion. But assuming Wilkes to have been the writer, the Parody must have been written before 1763. Shall we say fifteen years?—or after the fashion of a Dutch auction, reduce the bidding to fourteen, thirteen, a dozen? We cannot be wrong in fixing some period about or before 1754,—and therefore before Wilkes was twenty-seven, and just when flushed and maddened by his associates, “my lords” and the Medmenham Franciscans; and it does seem a little ungenerous and unfair to condemn a man to perpetual infamy for an error committed in his “salad days, when he was green in judgment.” Nor must it be forgotten that Wilkes did not obtrude his immoralities on the public. He made no ostentatious display of them,—his conduct tended in no degree to the corruption of public morals. Having a printing-press in his own house, he proposed to print twelve copies of this Parody for presentation to his *confrères* at Medmenham. Even this intention was never fulfilled,—not a fourth part of the proposed volume was ever printed, and the printing had been discontinued for months. The man employed by Wilkes subsequently declared on oath that Mr. Wilkes gave him “the strictest charge to suffer no person whatever to see the said poem, \* \* \* to work off only twelve copies;—which were all to be delivered, and were actually given, to Mr. Wilkes himself.” Not a single copy, therefore, had ever been distributed. Under these circumstances, it is possible—indeed probable,—that the printing never would have been completed, and that a returning or a dawning sense might have committed the impression, manuscript and all, to the fire. In truth, the first and only publication was by Lord Sandwich, when he brought the imperfect work before the House of Lords; where it would never have been heard of but as a means to damage or to ruin the author of *The North Briton*. In this we rejoice to know that it failed. The sound-hearted, right-minded public refused to entertain the charge, as wholly irrelevant to the question at issue between *The North Briton* and the Ministers; and the disgraceful means by which the evidence had been suborned did infinite damage to the government, and far more to public morals than the crime itself with which Wilkes

was charged. The facts, then only guessed at, were soon known. Professedly, the Ministers first got an inkling of this work from some letters illegally seized under the General Warrant:—but Sandwich, at least, knew of it before, for he had seen it in manuscript. He, however, now obtained the copy of so much as had been printed by direct bribery and profuse promises to one of the printers employed by Wilkes,—who was thus induced to steal a copy. The man, in the end, not satisfied with some three hundred pounds, stated the facts on oath, and prayed forgiveness of Mr. Wilkes. On this stolen copy of four sheets, and on evidence thus suborned and that of the required second witness—also one of the men employed by Wilkes, and also bribed—Lord Sandwich was not ashamed to prefer his charge before the House of Lords; and the Lords—the highest court of judicature in the kingdom—were not ashamed to prejudge the whole question,—to denounce Wilkes for not only writing, but “publishing” an obscene poem,—and to pray the King to order a prosecution, without permitting Wilkes to cross-examine or confront a witness, or even to offer one word in justification or in mitigation.

What a mockery was it in such times, with such ministers, and General Warrants in aid, to talk about the abolition of the Star Chamber! What a mockery would it have continued but for the abolition of these General Warrants—the declared illegality of seizing letters and papers, except in cases of high treason—the publication of the debates, and the consequent responsibility of members of parliament to an informed constituency—and the recognition of the right of juries in cases of libel to judge of the intention as well as the act, the law as well as the fact; a right claimed and exercised before it was declared by statute! Three of these triumphs we owe to the indomitable energy and uncompromising zeal of John Wilkes,—and to the spirit which he breathed into his countrymen we are mainly indebted for the fourth; and shall we who enjoy the blessings that resulted from his sufferings, be indifferent to his fame,—contentedly receive as unquestioned the heated exaggerations of his persecutors,—or sit silent when Whigs and Tories, Conservatives and Liberals, babble about him in ignorance that would be startling if it were not general—the best amongst them only affecting to grant him a new trial, in which, following the example of the old House of Lords, they take all the former evidence on trust and re-echo the former verdict?

If the personal morality of Wilkes was what we now consider low, so was the morality of the age—of the court—of the ministers. The moral character of George the Third and Queen Charlotte had not then been felt in their blessed influences. Intrigues and peccadilloes of that character were pretty much a matter of course with men of fashion—aye, and with women of fashion, too; and we are not aware that they kept their offendings a very profound secret. The Prime Minister to George the Third, the Duke of Grafton, and Nancy Parsons—who, by the bye, notwithstanding her notoriety contrived to die within the sanctuary of the peerage—the Duchess of Grafton and Lord Ossory—the Secretary of State to George the Third, Lord Sandwich, and Miss Ray—the brother of George the Third and Lady Grosvenor—the Chancellor of the Exchequer to George the Third, Lord Le Despencer, and the Medmenham doings and paintings—Lord Irnham, whose daughter married the brother of George the Third—and the Luttrells generally, with the Colonel, the selected and not elected member for Middlesex, and Arabella Bolton in particular—Lord Talbot, high constable at the coronation

of George the Third, a favoured courtier, and the Duchess of Beaufort—even some Maids of Honour—contrived to make a noise in their brief season; and if the labour of such research were not disgusting, the memoir writers of the day, the periodicals, and the proceedings of our courts of law and House of Lords would furnish us with a volume in further proof. We, however, have no desire to rake into the histories of private life. We notice only the acts of public men—of the statesmen and courtiers in the early part of the reign of George the Third:—and what more natural than that the distiller’s son, welcomed, flattered and fooled by lords, should affect to live like a lord? Wilkes, as we have said, never obtruded his vices on the world, though it suited the purpose of his betrayers to drag them into the light of day. He never paraded them on his arm at the Opera as the king’s Prime Minister did;—and never deserted the woman who had confided in him, as others did if we may put trust in their own published letters.

As a father Wilkes’s conduct was excellent beyond all question or cavil. The best proof is, the dutiful affection of his daughter from childhood to old age; made manifest after death by the directions in her will to be buried by his side,—not, as would seem more natural, by the side of her mother. But that unfortunate mother was too monotonous and wearisome—too selfish and self-indulgent, we fear—even for her kind daughter to live with her for more than a few weeks together without pining for her father and her home—“dear Princes Court.”

The man thus loved—so loved through a long life by a good and accomplished daughter—could not have been so bad and so beyond the pale of sympathy as the trading politicians of his time would lead the public to believe. Yet, according to their report, Wilkes had all possible and even incompatible vices. One most frequently urged is, that he never hesitated, if he had a purpose to obtain, to attack friends as well as foes, and to use against them the very weapons which friendship had placed in his power. Lord Mahon not only repeats this charge, but illustrates it:—“nor did Wilkes’s opponents find their former friendship with him afford any immunity from these attacks. Thus, the Abbot of Medmenham was most unsparingly lashed as soon as he became Chancellor of the Exchequer.” This is one of those vague assertions which it is difficult to disprove. Who could wade through the old folio *North Briton* to test its accuracy? Our impression was, that Wilkes had studiously avoided, as much as was possible in a fierce opposition journal, to touch on the marvellous deficiencies of the Medmenham Chancellor; and that when forced to do so, he had obviously tempered the lash with delicacy and discretion, or wrapped up his objections in figures of speech. Fortunately, we remembered that the *North Briton* was subsequently republished, and with an index. On turning to this index, we found that Dashwood was only seven times referred to:—once simply as a gentleman whose word on a point in dispute would be conclusive,—and once when commenting on the qualifications or disqualifications of ministers, and when, therefore, it was unavoidable. The others are simply notes by the editor,—such being the obscurity of the text that an explanation was thought necessary. We must, therefore, conclude that his Lordship is in error. In our opinion, indeed, the charge is not only untrue but the very reverse of the truth; it was a species of wrong of which indeed, Wilkes himself had just reason to complain. He attacked Chatham and Grafton and Onslow,—and well they deserved it, as we may hereafter show. He attacked Sandwich,



whose appointment as Secretary of State had awakened in him such overflowing zeal for morality that on his first appearance in that character—on the very first day of the session, and before their Lordships could be permitted to take the King's speech into consideration—he laid the stolen Parody on the table and bubbled forth all his horror about and against the author. Was Sandwich to be exempt from the just consequences of natural indignation on the score of old acquaintance? Wilkes attacked Horne—but it was in his own defence. It was Horne who had the incredible meanness to rake up anecdotes about unpaid tavern bills and the disposal of old clothes: yet so little do people think it a duty to examine into any question which affects only the character of John Wilkes, that we have seen within these few days this very charge preferred against him, as if he had been the wrong-doer, and by one who would not knowingly or willingly have done him injustice. Wilkes attacked Maclean:—but Maclean had fallen off from the old friendship, and had first struck at Wilkes, and, as Wilkes believed, at the bidding of the Minister to whom he had sold himself, and when certainly he was willing to sell himself to any one,—and he got soon after a reward which looked like a price. He attacked Smollett—but not till Smollett had taken up a hiring pen in defence of Bute and offence against Wilkes. When, however, "the Briton" ceased, all animosity ceased with Wilkes,—who was a man of fine and generous temper. This Lord Mahon admits, when, after commending his dauntless courage and high animal spirits, he adds:—"Nor should we deny him another much rarer praise—a vein of good humour and kindness, which did not forsake him through all his long career." But the cuts and bruises which Smollett had received rankled and festered; and it was thus that he embalmed the *North Briton*, and his friend John Wilkes, in what was then and has ever since been ludicrously called a 'History of England.'—

"The *North Briton* was pre-eminently distinguished by its attacks on men as well as measures. The author of this journal was the celebrated John Wilkes, member of parliament for Aylesbury and a lieutenant-colonel of the Buckinghamshire Militia; a man possessed of considerable talent and erudition, with an abundance of ready wit; but ruined in fortune, and disgraced by the most dissolute morals and profligate habits. \* \* Scandalous, however, as was the character of this demagogue," &c. &c.

We give this as a specimen; no doubt the party pamphlet is to be found on the library shelves of the reader,—for to the shame of our literature, 'Smollett's History of England,' as it is called, is still the established continuation of Hume. Wilkes hereupon published some private letters which he had received from Smollett;—observing on this, or on a like, occasion, that the printer need not fear to do so, for though there was a law against self-murder there was none against self-libel. Wilkes and Smollett had been old friends. In proof, when Dr. Johnson's black servant was pressed and taken on board ship, Johnson applied to Smollett,—and Smollett says in his letter, "I gave him to understand that I would make application to my friend Mr. Wilkes, who, perhaps, by his interest with Mr. Hay and Mr. Elliot [at that time Lords of the Admiralty] might be able to procure the discharge of his lacquey." Wilkes, it was quite certain, from his character, would exert himself on such an occasion; indeed he had evidently done Smollett some service before,—for the letter begins with the acknowledgment "I am again your petitioner." Smollett proceeded in the letter of thanks—"your generosity with respect to Johnson shall be the theme of our applause and thanksgiving"—to

ask Wilkes to interfere and see if it were possible to induce Admiral Knowles to stop a prosecution which he had commenced against the *Critical Review* for a libel written by Smollett.—In fact, in every letter he asks or acknowledges some favour. But to bring the public and private opinion of Smollett in immediate juxtaposition, be it remembered that the *North Briton* was started on the 5th of June, 1762, by a man described by Smollett in his 'History' as a most scandalous demagogue, "ruined in fortune, and disgraced by the most dissolute morals and profligate habits"—yet here is a letter written to this same man not three months before "Tobias became the Briton" and the champion of Lord Bute.—

"Chelsen, March 28, 1762.  
"Dear Sir,—My warmest regard, affection, and attachment you have long ago secured; my secrecy you may depend upon. When I presume to differ from you in any point of opinion, I shall always do it with diffidence and deference. I have been ill these three months; but hope soon to be in a condition to pay my respects to Mr. Wilkes in person. Meanwhile, I must beg leave to trouble him with another packet, which he will be so good as to consecrate at his leisure. That he may continue to enjoy his happy flow of spirits, and proceed through life with a full sail of prosperity and reputation, is the wish, the hope, and the confident expectation of his much obliged, humble servant, T. SMOLLETT."

Wilkes, we are told, also attacked Hogarth:—but Horace Walpole, who thought so highly and wrote so well of Hogarth, acknowledges that "if Hogarth did not commence direct hostilities, \* \* he at least obliquely gave the first offence, by an attack on the friends and party of that gentleman." Wilkes was at the time intimately associated with Lord Temple, and politically, at least, with Mr. Pitt, and doing battle in favour of these men—the party and principles which they represented. The moment he heard of Hogarth's hostile intention, he wrote in a friendly spirit to remonstrate,—told the Painter that such a proceeding was not only unfriendly but injudicious, "for such a pencil ought to be universal and moral, to speak to all ages and all nations; not to be dipt in the dirt of the faction of the day." Hogarth replied, that Wilkes would not be personally attacked. "On this, Wilkes informed Hogarth that he should never resent reflections on himself: but if his friends were attacked, he should then deem himself wounded in the most sensible part, and avenge their cause as well as he was able." So he did:—Hogarth published his print, and Wilkes his commentary. No moral censure can attach to either;—and we rejoice at it. We would not willingly ruffle a feather of that Fame which has borne the name of Hogarth in honour over the wide world,—but cannot allow even Genius to triumph over Justice.

We referred to Allan Cunningham's 'Life of Hogarth' to see how the story was there told. On the whole, fairly;—with an obvious wish to make the best case for the painter, which was natural and becoming in his biographer,—but with some hard words on Wilkes's general character:—and Mr. Cunningham would have been more or less than a Scotchman if there had not been. This reminds us of another of Wilkes's offences—his attack on the Scots.

All Englishmen, and Scotchmen too, will now agree with Mr. Pitt that national reflections are "detestable,"—but were they so considered in 1762? Why, hatred of the Scots then raged like an epidemic; and we have heard that sober, moral, orthodox gentlemen—Dr. Johnson amongst them—had very severe attacks of it. Neither is this altogether inexplicable. The English people had submitted to two revolutions that they might get rid of the House of

Stuart; whilst the Scots had clung to the fallen family with a pertinacity that does honour to their generous sympathies, though very little to their judgment. Twice afterwards had the English been challenged to the field and been compelled to do battle for the House of Brunswick,—twice had the nation been thrown into confusion by the Scots and their attempts to restore the fallen family. The English, therefore, had paid far too dearly for their whistle to look on the Scots with indifference. The governments of "fifteen" and "forty-five" had appealed to and aroused this nationality; and when George the Third proposed to put an end to these divisions—to unite all parties—it was not to be expected that the people should comprehend and sympathize with him in a moment, and interpret every act of his government as if it were abstract and isolated and irrespective of the past. When, therefore, in opening his first parliament, the King called himself "a Briton" instead of "an Englishman," the latter being the only phrase with which they were familiar—and when they saw the Cabinet taken possession of, not by their old leaders, but by an unknown Scotch lord, with no claim or pretence but the fact that he was the favourite or the minion of the Court—when they soon after saw Mr. Legge, Chatham's Chancellor of the Exchequer, kicked out of office because he had dared to oppose the Scotch nominee of the Scotch lord for an English county, for which Legge had been by requisition of the freeholders solicited to become a candidate—when they saw their old idol Chatham himself, in the very height of his and the nation's triumphs forced to retire, and Temple, another popular man, to retire with him,—it is not to be wondered at that the people (no matter how ignorantly or passionately) translated "Briton" into "Scotchman." It is easy to be philosophical and cool in the condemnation of such folly now,—but men were not cool in 1762; and a thousand circumstances, accidental and incidental, tended to confirm their opinions or their prejudices as to the inclinations and tendencies of the Court—and of the "influence behind the throne greater than the throne itself." They saw representatives of the Great Revolution families dismissed from lord-lieutenancies, and others throw up the same in disgust—the Dukes of Devonshire, Newcastle and Grafton, the Marquis of Rockingham and Earl Temple. They saw notorious Jacobites welcomed at Court and appointed to office. They saw that the humblest as well as the highest who had been connected with the Whig party were removed, even down to doorkeepers and housekeepers. They saw, or felt, or heard whispered, perhaps, what we know,—that a question was submitted to the Lord Chancellor whether the King might not cancel even patents granted in the last reign. They saw the *Gazette* filled with unpronounceable names—"Colkitto, or Macdonnel, or Galasp,"—in one *Gazette* that "the King had been pleased to constitute and appoint the Hon. James Murray to be His Majesty's Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over His Majesty's province of Quebec"—James Grant, Captain General and Governor in Chief, &c. in and over East Florida—George Johnson, &c. over West Florida—and Robert Melville over Granada, the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Vincent and Tobago;—in another *Gazette*, as we learn from the periodicals of the day, out of sixteen promotions, eleven were given to Stuarts and four to Mackenzies:—and seeing these things, it is not very extraordinary that living men who had suffered in two rebellions, or their sons to whom the traditions were familiar, should believe the Scots to be the "fatal race" represented—

Whom first our greatness to oppose,  
God in his vengeance mark'd for foes;  
Then more to work His wrathful ends,  
And more to curse us, mark'd for friends.

This may have been very absurd,—but certainly it was not the exclusive error and exceptional infirmity of John Wilkes.

Lord Mahon tells us—"The cases of national partiality in Lord Bute were by no means numerous, nor yet extending to the higher offices of State. Even his own private secretary—in which beyond all others a national or personal bias may be fairly indulged—was born south of the Tweed." In our opinion, the selection of private secretary is precisely a question on which a minister of State can neither indulge his national nor any other predilections. A secretary is another self, for whose actions the minister is responsible;—and with many ministers all hopes of success have depended on the official tact, skill, and judgment of the secretary,—in fact, the secretary has been minister. It is not, however, with the fact, but with the popular belief that we are concerned; and it certainly did happen, as we have shown, that in the early years of the reign of George the Third many circumstances tended to feed the delusion. The especial favourite was a Scotchman—the Prime Minister the same Scotchman—the Lord Chief Justice was a Scotchman who had, or was believed to have, drunk success to the Pretender on his knees. The Court swarmed with Scotchmen;—and if more did not hold high office they got some profitable ones—and twos;—Sir Gilbert Elliott, for example, with 3,000*l.* a-year for himself, while he drew Captain's half-pay for his son, a boy of ten years of age. Subsequently the Lord Chancellor was a Scotchman,—Scotchmen were preferred as king's architects, and Ramsay to Reynolds as Court painter. But no matter, we repeat, whether the popular opinion was just or unjust,—all we desire is to show that the opinion was general.

We reserve some further comments until next week.

*Recollections of a Literary Life; or, Books, Places and People.* By Mary Russell Mitford. 3 vols. Bentley.

AFTER such a title-page as the above, we must throw on Miss Mitford herself the responsibility of stating the purpose of the pages which it introduces.—

"The courteous reader must take it for what it is:—an attempt to make others relish a few favourite writers as heartily as I have relished them myself. My opinions, such as they are, have at least the merit of being honest, earnest and individual, unbiassed by the spirit of coterie or the influence of fashion. Many of my extracts will be found to comprise the best bits of neglected authors; and some, I think, as the noble murder speech of Daniel Webster, the poems of Thomas Davis, of Mrs. James Gray, of Mr. Darley, of Mr. Noel, and of Dr. Holmes, will be new to the English public. Some again, as the delightful discoveries of Fraed, and Frere, and Catherine Fanshawe are difficult, if not impossible to procure; and others possess in perfection the sort of novelty which belongs to the forgotten. Amongst these, I may class 'Holcroft's Memoirs,' 'Richardson's Correspondence,' the curious 'Trial of Captain Goodere,' and the 'Pleader's Guide.' I even fear that the choicest morsels of my book, the delicious specimens of Cowley's prose, may come under the same category."

Now, without pausing to insist very strongly on the fact that we cannot exactly accept Miss Mitford's literary categories as here stated,—we must observe that the matter here offered is certainly not that of which her title-page suggests the presumption. We think Miss Mitford's country friends and admirers are likely to be misled, as we were ourselves, into expecting that a book professing to be 'Recol-

lections of a Literary Life' should present something like the writer's biographical memoirs.—It being once understood that the book is principally compilation and critical gossip,—the matter is agreeable enough, and comes pleasantly to diversify more serious reading at this holiday time. It is a hard word to use, but the publication is scarcely free from the charge of book-making.

The slender portion of matter supplied by the compiler herself is interesting:—and we could have wished it had been more. Here we have a singular anecdote of her chequered life. In pathetically describing the life of her father, an unsuccessful man of talent, Miss Mitford says—

"In the meanwhile his spirits returned as buoyant as ever, and so, now that fear had changed into certainty, did mine. In the intervals of his professional pursuits he walked about London with his little girl in his hand; and one day (it was my birth-day, and I was ten years old) he took me into a not very tempting-looking place, which was, as I speedily found, a lottery office. An Irish lottery was upon the point of being drawn, and he desired me to choose one out of several bits of printed paper (I did not then know their significance) that lay upon the counter:—'Choose which number you like best,' said the dear papa, 'and that shall be your birth-day present.' I immediately selected one, and put it into his hand: No. 2,224. 'Ah,' said my father, examining it, 'you must choose again. I want to buy a whole ticket; and this is only a quarter. Choose again, my pet.'—'No, dear papa, I like this one best.'—'Here is the next number,' interposed the lottery office keeper, 'No. 2,223.'—'Ay,' said my father, 'that will do just as well. Will it not, Mary? We'll take that.'—'No!' returned I, obstinately; 'that won't do. This is my birth-day you know, papa, and I am ten years old. Cast up my number, and you'll find that makes ten. The other is only nine.' My father, superstitious like all speculators, struck with my pertinacity, and with the reason I gave, which he liked none the less because the ground of preference was tolerably unreasonable, resisted the attempt of the office keeper to tempt me by different tickets, and we had nearly left the shop without a purchase, when the clerk, who had been examining different de-ks and drawers, said to his principal: 'I think, Sir, the matter may be managed if the gentleman does not mind paying a few shillings more. That ticket, 2,224, only came yesterday, and we have still all the shares; one half, one quarter, one eighth, two sixteenths. It will be just the same if the young lady is set upon it.' The young lady was set upon it, and the shares were purchased. The whole affair was a secret between us, and my father whenever he got me to himself talked over our future twenty thousand pounds—just like Alnaschar over his basket of eggs. Meanwhile, time passed on, and one Sunday morning we were all preparing to go to church, when a face that I had forgotten, but my father had not, made its appearance. It was the clerk of the lottery office. An express had just arrived from Dublin, announcing that No. 2,224 had been drawn a prize of twenty thousand pounds, and he had hastened to communicate the good news. Ah, me! In less than twenty years what was left of the produce of the ticket so strangely chosen? What? except a Wedgwood dinner-service that my father had had made to commemorate the event, with the Irish harp within the border on one side, and his family crest on the other! That fragile and perishable ware long outlasted the more perishable money!"

None of the connecting prose passages in these volumes will be read with more interest than Miss Mitford's graphic account of Mrs. Barrett Browning—the poetess. We have been long aware of the tragic facts alluded to in the following sketch; they are touched by Miss Mitford with the delicacy of true sympathy.—

"My first acquaintance with Elizabeth Barrett commenced about fifteen years ago. She was certainly one of the most interesting persons that I had ever seen. Everybody who then saw her, said the same; so that it is not merely the impression of my

partiality, or my enthusiasm. Of a slight, delicate figure, with a shower of dark curls falling on either side of a most expressive face, large tender eyes richly fringed with dark eyelashes, a smile like a sunbeam, and such a look of youthfulness, that I had some difficulty in persuading a friend, in whose carriage we went together to Chiswick, that the translator of the 'Prometheus' of Æschylus, the authoress of the 'Essay on Mind,' was old enough to be introduced into company, in technical language was out. Through the kindness of another invaluable friend, to whom I owe many obligations, but none so great as this, I saw much of her during my stay in town. We met so constantly and so familiarly that in spite of the difference of age intimacy ripened into friendship, and after my return into the country, we corresponded freely and frequently, her letters being just what letters ought to be—her own talk put upon paper. The next year was a painful one to herself and to all who loved her. She broke a blood-vessel upon the lungs, which did not heal. If there had been consumption in the family that disease would have intervened. There were no seeds of the fatal English malady in her constitution, and she escaped. Still, however, the vessel did not heal, and after attending her for above a twelvemonth at her father's house in Wimpole Street, Dr. Chambers, on the approach of winter, ordered her to a milder climate. Her eldest brother, a brother in heart and in talent worthy of such a sister, together with other devoted relatives accompanied her to Torquay, and there occurred the fatal event which saddened her bloom of youth, and gave a deeper hue of thought and feeling, especially of devotional feeling, to her poetry. I have so often been asked what could be the shadow that had passed over that young heart, that now that time has softened the first agony it seems to me right that the world should hear the story of an accident in which there was much sorrow, but no blame. Nearly a twelvemonth had passed, and the invalid, still attended by her affectionate companions, had derived much benefit from the mild sea-breezes of Devonshire. One fine summer morning her favourite brother, together with two other fine young men, his friends, embarked on board a small sailing-vessel for a trip of a few hours. Excellent sailors all, and familiar with the coast, they sent back the boatmen, and undertook themselves the management of the little craft. Danger was not dreamt of by any one; after the catastrophe no one could divine the cause, but in a few minutes after their embarkation, and in sight of their very windows, just as they were crossing the bar, the boat went down and all who were in her perished. Even the bodies were never found. I was told by a party who were travelling that year in Devonshire and Cornwall, that it was most affecting to see on the corner houses of every village street, on every church-door and almost on every cliff for miles and miles along the coast handbills, offering large rewards for linen cast ashore marked with the initials of the beloved dead; for it so chanced that all the three were of the dearest and the best; one, I believe, an only son, the other the son of a widow. This tragedy nearly killed Elizabeth Barrett. She was utterly prostrated by the horror and the grief, and by a natural but a most unjust feeling that she had been in some sort the cause of this great misery. It was not until the following year, that she could be removed in an invalid carriage, and by journeys of twenty miles a day, to her afflicted family and her London home. The house that she occupied at Torquay had been chosen as one of the most sheltered in the place. It stood at the bottom of the cliffs almost close to the sea; and she told me herself that during that whole winter the sound of the waves rang in her ears like the moans of one dying. Still she clung to literature and to Greek; in all probability she would have died without that wholesome diversion to her thoughts. Her medical attendant did not always understand this. To prevent the remonstrances of her friendly physician, Dr. Barry, she caused a small edition of Plato to be so bound as to resemble a novel. He did not know, skilful and kind though he were, that to her such books were not an arduous and painful study, but a consolation and a delight. Returned to London, she began the life which she continued for so many years, confined to one large and commodious but darkened chamber,



admitting only her own affectionate family and a few devoted friends (I, myself, have often joyfully travelled five-and-forty miles to see her, and returned the same evening without entering another house); reading almost every book worth reading in almost every language, and giving herself heart and soul to that poetry of which she seemed born to be the priestess. Gradually her health improved. About four years ago she married Mr. Browning, and immediately accompanied him to Pisa. They then settled at Florence; and this summer I have had the exquisite pleasure of seeing her once more in London with a lovely boy at her knee, almost as well as ever, and telling tales of Italian rambles, of losing herself in chestnut forests, and scrambling on muleback up the sources of extinct volcanoes. May Heaven continue to her such health and such happiness."

—All true lovers of poetry will, no doubt, heartily echo a cordial "Amen" to the last concluding wish.

Amongst the extracts, few are more agreeable to read than those of the late Winthrop Mackworth Praed and some of the best poems of the late Thomas Davis, the young Irish poet, whose talent Miss Mitford much admires. It is somewhat difficult to find the poetry of Mr. Praed,—scattered as it is through various periodicals. It is surprising that a man who had so many literary friends should be so neglected in his grave. In America, his poems have been collected:—and they well deserve that some one should perform that office for them here. Mr. Praed possessed some of the best qualities of Hood and of James Smith, with a smack of Tennyson in his diction. His peculiar genius lay in a singular mixture of the quizzical and the pathetic, mingled with a strong pictorial power of painting character by a variety of delicate and minute touches. Miss Mitford gives copious extracts from his poems,—but some of his prose pieces are as rich and graceful. To many of our readers the following poem will read as a new one;—and we extract it as a good example,—though we ourselves could find many better—of the facile grace with which this young and lamented poet played with his subject. It is a brilliant though quaint picture of many a scholar retired in rural life.—

Some years ago, ere Time and Taste  
Had turned our parish topsy-turvy,  
When Darnel Park was Darnel Waste  
And roads as little known as scurvy,  
The man who lost his way between  
St. Mary's Hill and Sandy Thicket,  
Was always shown across the Green,  
And guided to the Parson's wicket.

Rack flew the bolt of liason lath;  
Fair Margaret in her tidy kirtle  
Led the lorn traveller up the path,  
Through clean-clipt rows of box and myrtle:  
And Don and Sanchez, Tramp and Tray,  
Upon the parlour-steps collected,  
Wagged all their tails and seemed to say:  
"Our master knows you; you're expected."

Up rose the Reverend Doctor Brown,  
Up rose the Doctor's "winsome marrow;"  
The lady laid her knitting down,  
Her husband clasped his ponderous barrow.  
Whate'er the stranger's caste or creed,  
Pundit or papist, saint or sinner,  
He found a stable for his steed,  
And welcome for himself and dinner.

If, when he reached his journey's end,  
And warmed himself in court or college,  
He had not gained an honest friend,  
And twenty curious scraps of knowledge!  
If he departed as he came,  
With no new light on love or liquor,  
Good sooth the traveller was to blame,  
And not the Vicarage or the Vicar.

His talk was like a stream which runs  
With rapid change from rocks to roses;  
It slipped from politics to puns;  
It passed from Mahomet to Moses;  
Beginning with the laws which keep  
The planets in their radiant courses,  
And ending with some precept deep  
For dressing eels or shoeing horses.

He was a shrewd and sound divine,  
Of loud dissent the mortal terror;  
And when by dint of page and line,  
He established truth or startled error,

The Baptist found him far too deep;  
The Deist sighed with saving sorrow,  
And the lean Levite went to sleep  
And dreamt of eating pork to-morrow.

His sermon never said or showed  
That earth is foul, that Heaven is gracious,  
Without refreshment on the road  
From Jerome or from Athanasius;  
And sure a righteous zeal inspired  
The hand and head that penned and planned them,  
For all who understood admired,  
And some who did not understand them.

He did not think all mischief fair,  
Although he had a knack of joking;  
He did not make himself a bear,  
Although he had a taste for smoking.  
And when religious sects ran mad  
He held, in spite of all his learning,  
That if a man's belief is bad  
It will not be improved by burning.

And he was kind and loved to sit  
In the low hut or garished cottage,  
And praise the farmer's homely wit,  
And share the widow's homelier pillow.  
At his approach complaint grew mild,  
And when his hand unbarred the shutter,  
The clammy lips of fever smiled  
The welcome that they could not utter.

He always had a tale for me  
Of Julius Caesar or of Venus;  
From him I learned the rule of three,  
Cat's-cradle, leap-frog, and Que genus;  
I used to sing his powdered wig,  
To steal the staff he put such trust in,  
And make the puppy dance a jig  
When he began to quote Augustine.

Alack the change! In vain I look  
For haunts in which my boyhood trifled;  
The level lawn, the trickling brook,  
The trees I climbed, the beds I rifled!  
The church is larger than before,  
You reach it by a carriage entry;  
It holds three hundred people more,  
And pews are fitted for the entry.

Sit in the Vicar's seat: you'll hear  
The doctrine of a gentle Johnian;  
Whose hand is white, whose voice is clear,  
Whose tone is very Ciceronian.  
Where is the old man laid? Look down  
And construe on the slab before you—  
"Hic jacet Guilelmus Brown,  
Vir nullâ non donandus lauro."

Mr. Praed was the best charade writer we know. Under his pen the charade took lyrical rank. We almost forget the riddle in the metrical merits of the style. Miss Mitford gives several specimens of his talent in this line; and as it is Christmas time, we may as well select two—an easy and a hard one,—to help our readers to the appropriate amusements of the season.—

Come from my First, aye, come!  
The battle dawn is nigh;  
And the screaming trumpet and the thundering drum  
Are calling thee to die!  
Fight as thy father fought;  
Fall as thy father fell;  
Thy task is taught; thy shroud is wrought;  
So; forward and farewell!

Tell ye my Second! toll!  
Fling high the flambeau's light;  
And sing the hymn for a parted soul  
Beneath the silent night!  
The wreath upon his head,  
The cross upon his breast,  
Let the prayer be said, and the tear be shed.  
So,—take him to his rest!

Call ye my Whole, ay, call,  
The lord of lute and lily;  
And let him greet the sable pall  
With a noble song to-day:  
Go, call him by his name!  
No fitter hand may crave  
To light the flame of a soldier's fame  
On the turf of a soldier's grave.

Most of our readers will guess the above. The next, as we have said, is more difficult.—

Sir Hilary charged at Agincourt,—  
Sooth 'twas an awful day!

And though in that old age of sport  
The rufflers of the camp and court  
Had little time to pray,  
'Tis said Sir Hilary muttered these  
Two syllables by way of prayer.

My First to all the brave and proud  
Who see to-morrow's sun;  
My Next with her cold and quiet cloud  
To those who find their dewy shroud  
Before to-day's be done;  
And both together to all blue eyes  
That weep when a warrior nobly dies.

—Miss Mitford declares that this charade is still a mystery to her:—so, we leave it to our read-

ers—as she does—as a proper exercise for the time.—Talking of charades, Miss Mitford contends that the famous conundrum on the letter 'H,' attributed to Lord Byron was written, at Deepdene, by the poetess Katharine Fanshawe.

Here we must stop:—and again regretting that the work has not a title more truly characteristic, we can yet recommend its three volumes of selections as very attractive light reading.

*The History of Magic, Witchcraft and Animal Magnetism.* By J. C. Colquhoun, Esq. 2 vols. Longman & Co.

THIS book has a title at once good and bad:—good as being attractive,—bad as not being truly descriptive of the contents. The work is by no means what it professes to be; for, although something is said in it touching magic and witchcraft in former times, the whole purpose of the author has been to puff and propagate mesmerism. The notion that in certain states of bodily and mental weakness, of nervous debility and diseased organism, an influence or a power was, at some time and in some way, gained over the persons so diseased by others in a perfect state of health and in full possession of their faculties, has been entertained and acted on for many centuries. Much of the earlier portion of the volumes before us is devoted to the proof that animal magnetism was known to the ancients; and transmitted through Paracelsus, Van Helmont, and others, to about the middle of the last century,—when Mesmer became notorious. In this division of his undertaking, we are not disposed to deny that the author has displayed reading; but we must be allowed to say, that in his main positions he has been anticipated by an individual who couples so much modesty with his learning that he has put forward his claim as a discoverer in the most unpretending manner. We allude to Dr. Maitland; who some time ago printed a pamphlet (we almost doubt if it were published) in order to show that mesmerism, as it is termed, in a certain qualified sense, was made use of by various empirics of the Middle Ages, and even earlier.

But even in those times of comparative ignorance, people were not half so fatuously credulous as some have shown themselves in these days of advanced science and enlightenment. The conjurers and astrologers of the eleventh and twelfth centuries pretended "to make far things present" by means of their perspective glasses,—and to a certain extent they actually accomplished what they undertook. They enabled persons who consulted them to see what was going on at distances beyond the reach of unassisted vision; but it was past the conjuration of their art to throw a living being into a trance and enable him or her in that state to enter apartments hundreds or thousands of miles away, or to penetrate into the hearts of mile-stones and look through brick walls. This, and much more than this, was left to the modern professors of Mesmerism; and while these gentlemen are performing—or affecting to perform—their wonders, they quite overlook the logical conclusion to which their practices and pretensions inevitably lead. If a *clairvoyant*, during what is called "a crisis," can discover while in Edinburgh what is passing in a house in Pembroke (a case cited in great detail by Mr. Colquhoun), what should prevent the same mental travelling to the remotest parts of our globe,—or even to the Moon or the planet Mercury? Why are not those saved their peril and trouble who have been so long engaged in African or American discoveries:—and why should a nation full of such far-seeing conjurers incur so much cost and anxiety to disprove the whereabouts of

Sir John Franklin and his crews? It is not more impossible for a man to leap over St. Paul's than to leap over the moon; and if a man or woman asleep in an easy chair can report what is transacting five miles away, he or she may report as faithfully the truth of incidents and appearances happening and existing at five thousand miles' distance. Impossibility admits of no degrees:—but,

What's impossible can't be,  
And never, never comes to pass.

Mr. Colquhoun is ready to go all lengths with the most extravagant of the votaries of Mesmerism. There is no absurdity to which he does not give his willing assent. He believes unhesitatingly that peasants "in a crisis" can speak and understand any language in the world, dead or living; and we have from him a long and not unamusing dissertation on the virtues and efficacy of the divining rod;—with which, by the way, Mesmerism would seem to have little or nothing to do.

While Mr. Colquhoun laments over the unwillingness of the sober English people to travel backwards towards the dark ages by the adoption of such absurd delusions,—he is in transports with the French, German and even Danes for their easy faith. While he can muster only a few names of scientific men amongst ourselves who have given a qualified assent to the existence of certain singular influences,—he produces a long array of foreign practitioners who have swallowed every representation, and made wonderful discoveries and astonishing cures by the instrumentality of this mysterious power. On the lamentable state of darkness existing in this country the author has the following observations.—

"But while the study and practice of Animal Magnetism were thus advancing with such rapidly progressive steps upon the continent of Europe, Great Britain, in solitary pride, stood wholly aloof from the interesting investigation. This apparent coldness and indifference may be, in some measure, accounted for upon various grounds. The interruption of all regular intercourse and communication between our island and the greater part of continental Europe, during the long continuance of the French revolutionary war, could not fail to prove highly unfavourable to the reciprocal interchange of ideas, discoveries, and improvements in science. It was precisely during that period, however, that the investigation of Animal Magnetism was prosecuted with the greatest ardour and success by our continental neighbours, and that the larger proportion of the more remarkable facts were gradually brought to light by the indefatigable labours and diligent inquiries of scientific men. During the same period, England fell far behind the rest of Europe in the pursuits of physiological and psychological science; and, even at this hour, we have probably still a great deal of lee-way to recover. The strictly physical sciences, especially mechanical science, were almost exclusively cultivated amongst us, and the fashion of the times assigned an undue preponderance to the solution of certain questions of mere curiosity, or to inquiries of which the results were only calculated to subserve some temporary and tangible interests. Psychology, or Mental Philosophy—the most interesting study to man, considered as an intelligent, a rational and responsible being—had almost entirely ceased to be cultivated in England, as an independent department of knowledge. That branch of science, indeed, has been long at a discount in this country. Psychology, indeed, may still be considered as almost a *terra incognita*.—Zoo-Magnetism was, for a long time, scarcely known amongst us even by name. The few who had heard of the last-mentioned science, totally ignorant of its real essence and objects, were in the habit of associating it with the suspicious name of Mesmer, the reputed quack, and the alleged refutation of his medical and scientific heresies by the French Académiciens in 1784."

Mr. Colquhoun has no difficulty whatever in believing in what is called the transfusion of the

senses,—by which people in a trance may discern objects better with their elbows than they ever did with their eyes, or may hear with their toes when the drum of the ear has ceased to perform its functions. We do not know whether it is claimed that they can smell with their ears.—Of "magnetic vision, or vision without the use of the eyes," (that is, seeing without the aid of the organs given for the purpose,) the writer speaks thus.—

"We now come to speak of a magnetic phenomenon, which, when the author first announced it, several years ago, excited the utmost scepticism, and no small portion of ridicule, among the philosophers and physiologists of this country; and which, at one time, could not be alluded to in society, without exciting a perfect ebullition of pleasantry and *persiflage*. He who had the boldness to hint at the mere possibility of such a strange phenomenon, even in the presence of men of scientific habits and attainments, laid himself under a violent suspicion of actual insanity. But all this scepticism, and ridicule, and wonderment, was the result of pure ignorance—ignorance of the nature and conditions of the problem, and, consequently, of its solution. Vision, in particular circumstances, without the use of the eyes—having its origin in a certain abnormal pathological state of the organism—is not, in reality, a discovery of the Magnetists in particular, who have merely enlarged the evidence which may be adduced in support of the fact. The fact itself appears to have been known in ancient times; and, at all events, undoubted instances of its occasional occurrence had attracted the attention of physicians, philosophers, and poets long before the cultivation of Animal Magnetism as a science; when the phenomenon became demonstrated to the satisfaction of thousands; and incredulity upon this subject, at this time of day, betrays utter ignorance or ludicrous obstinacy."

—We happen to have witnessed this experiment over and over again; and the result was, in every case, of course, complete failure.

We have not patience to carry our examination of these volumes further;—nor would our readers thank us if we did. From beginning to end they are full of delusion and misrepresentation. The author himself, we are willing to believe, is the victim of his own credulity. He possesses a considerable share of learning;—and this we say in spite of the hackneyed quotations which he too frequently employs, not in the way of argument or of illustration, but as ornaments and graces of style. He shows acuteness enough in detecting the fallacies of others,—but is absolutely blind to the impostures of persons of his own creed. When adverted to the imaginary achievements of Mesmerism, the reasoning faculty seems to have been bestowed on him only to mislead, bewilder, and confound.

*Narrative of the Voyage of H.M.S. Rattlesnake, commanded by the late Capt. Owen Stanley, R.N., F.R.S., &c., during the Years 1846—50, including Discoveries and Surveys in New Guinea, &c., to which is added the Account of Mr. E. B. Kennedy's Expedition for the Exploration of the Cape York Peninsula.* By John Macgillivray, F.R.G.S., Naturalist to the Expedition. 2 vols. T. & W. Boone.

THESE two volumes are not to be hastily dismissed: being full of matter conveyed in the plain, manly language of one who has something to tell. They recall those earlier narratives of travelling adventure and discovery which rested their claim on the sights seen, the facts gleaned, and the sufferings endured by the voyager—not on his command over Emersonian profundity, nor on his jaunty use of that broken English by which strong-minded females or "lilies male" have fancied they could attest their familiarity with Continental life and manners. Perils in strange seas,—friendly meetings and quarrels with savages—the damage wrought by Death

among the small band of mariners—themes like these may well be subduers of all affectation. Such are Mr. Macgillivray's topics.

We cannot undertake to offer an epitome of the events of the four years' voyage recounted by him; neither do we pretend here to sum up the additions thereby made to natural history, since they have been tabulated elsewhere. Having reminded our readers that the object of the Expedition was the geographical survey of the ocean-routes from Australia,—that the Rattlesnake was accompanied by the Bramble and the Castlereagh, and the three set sail from Plymouth in the month of December, 1846,—we shall further merely touch at a few insulated points. The first shall be the Mauritius.—

"The extremes of the island are low, but the centre is occupied by the partially wooded crest-like ridge, rugged and pinnacled, connecting La Pouce with the famous Peter Botte. Viewed in a mass, the country looked burnt up, of a dull yellowish red hue,—the higher hills were dark green, and the lower grounds partially so. To the left was the fertile plain of Pamplemousses, even now, in the beginning of winter, one mass of green of various degrees of intensity. As we approached we began to make out more distinctly the sugar plantations, the groves of cocoa-nut trees and casuarinas, the features of the town, and the dense mass of shipping in the harbour. We hove to off the Bell Buoy (denoting the outer anchorage), for the steamer which towed us to our berth abreast of Cooper's Island. The harbour of Port Louis is of singular formation. It is entered by a narrow passage or break in the coral reef surrounding the island, leading into a large basin, the central portion only of which has sufficient water for shipping. The bottom is mud, which, they say, is fast accumulating, especially in a small bight called the Trou Fanfaron, where a few years ago a line-of-battle ship could float, but which has now scarcely water enough for a large corvette. The reefs about the entrance are nearly dry at low water, at which time one may wade to their outer margin, as is daily practised by hundreds of fishermen. Passing through the closely packed lines of shipping, and landing as a stranger at Port Louis, perhaps the first thing to engage attention is the strange mixture of nations,—representatives, he might at first be inclined to imagine, of half the countries of the earth. He stares at a Coole from Madras with a breech cloth and soldier's jacket, or a stately bearded Moor, striking a bargain with a Parsee merchant; a Chinaman, with two bundles slung on a bamboo, hurries past, jostling a group of young Creole exquisites smoking their cheroots at a corner, and talking of last night's Norma, or the programme of the evening's performance at the Hippodrome in the Champs de Mars; his eye next catches a couple of sailors reeling out of a grogshop, to the amusement of a group of laughing negroes in white muslin dresses of the latest Parisian fashion, contrasting strongly with a modestly attired Cingalese woman, and an Indian ayah with her young charge. Amidst all this the French language prevails; everything more or less pertains of the French character, and an Englishman can scarcely believe that he is in one of the colonies of his own country."

Hobart Town was reached on the 24th of June 1847:—at which date the serious business of the Expedition may be said to have commenced. Such business seems in these latitudes to be made all the more serious by the unpromising quality of the aboriginal inhabitants. Taken as a mass, they appear to stand lower in the scale of morals than most other wild groups. Missionary labour is said to make little or no impression on them; while from time to time they are exposed to the more congenial teaching of runaway convicts, calculated to brutalize them with most dangerous insidiousness,—that, namely, which associates in their minds the idea of superlative craft and wickedness as connected with the white man. Yet, of course, there are exceptions to this dark and discouraging picture.—



"Many of the Port Essington natives have shown a remarkable degree of intelligence, far above the average of Europeans, uneducated, and living in remote districts,—among others, I may mention the name of Neimnal (the same alluded to in the preceding paragraph), of whose character I had good opportunities of judging, for he lived with me for ten months. During my stay at Port Essington, he became much attached to me, and latterly accompanied me in all my wanderings in the bush, while investigating the natural history of the district, following up the researches of my late and much lamented friend Gilbert. One day, while detained by rainy weather at my camp, I was busy in skinning a fish,—Neimnal watched me attentively for some time and then withdrew, but returned in half an hour afterwards, with the skin of another fish in his hand prepared by himself, and so well done too, that it was added to the collection. I could give many other instances of his sagacity, his docility, and even his acute perception of character,—latterly, he seemed even to read my very thoughts. He accompanied me in the Fly to Torres Strait and New Guinea, and on our return to Port Essington begged so hard to continue with me that I could not refuse him. He went with us to Singapore, Java, and Sydney, and from his great good humour became a favourite with all on board, picking up the English language with facility, and readily conforming himself to our habits, and the discipline of the ship. He was very cleanly in his personal habits, and paid much attention to his dress, which was always kept neat and tidy. I was often very much amused and surprised by the oddity and justness of his remarks upon the many strange sights which a voyage of this kind brought before him. The Nemesis steamer under weigh puzzled him at first—he then thought it was 'all same big cart, only got him shingles on wheels!' He always expressed great contempt for the dullness of comprehension of his countrymen, 'big fools they,' he used often to say, 'black fellow no good.' Even Malays, Chinamen, and the natives of India he counted as nothing in his increasing admiration of Europeans, until he saw some sepoys, when he altered his opinion a little, and thought that he too, if only big enough, would like to be a soldier. The poor fellow suffered much from cold during the passage round Cape Leeuwin and was ill when landed at Sydney, but soon recovered. Although his thoughts were always centred in his native home, and a girl to whom he was much attached, he yet volunteered to accompany me to England, when the Fly was about to sail, but as I had then no immediate prospect of returning to Australia, I could not undertake the responsibility of having to provide for him for the future. I was glad then when Lieut. Yule, who was about to revisit Port Essington, generously offered to take him there—while in the Bramble he made himself useful in assisting the steward, and, under the tuition of Dr. MacClatchie, made some proficiency in acquiring the rudiments of reading and writing. At Port Essington, the older members of his family evinced much jealousy on account of the attention shown him, and his determination to remain with Mr. Tilston, the assistant surgeon, then in charge, and endeavoured to dissuade him from his purpose. While upon a visit to his tribe he met his death in the manner already recorded. His natural courage and presence of mind did not desert him even at the last extremity, when he was roused from sleep to find himself surrounded by a host of savages thirsting for his blood. They told him to rise, but he merely raised himself upon his elbow, and said, 'If you want to kill me do so where I am, I won't get up—give me a spear and a club, and I'll fight you all one by one!' He had scarcely spoken when a man named Alerk speared him from behind, spear after spear followed, and as he lay writhing on the ground his savage murderers literally dashed him to pieces with their clubs. The account of the manner in which Neimnal met his death was given me by a very intelligent native who had it from an eye-witness, and I have every reason to believe it true, corroborated as it was by the testimony of others."

At Cape York, Mr. Macgillivray says:—

"A startling incident occurred to break the monotony of our stay. In the afternoon some of our people on shore were surprised to see a young white

woman come up to claim their protection from a party of natives from whom she had recently made her escape, and whom, she thought, would otherwise bring her back. Of course she received every attention, and was taken on board the ship by the first boat, when she told her story, which is briefly as follows. Her name is Barbara Thomson: she was born at Aberdeen, in Scotland, and along with her parents, emigrated to New South Wales. About four years and a half ago she left Moreton Bay with her husband in a small cutter (called the America); of which he was owner, for the purpose of picking up some of the oil from the wreck of a whaler, lost on the Bampton Shoal, to which place one of her late crew undertook to guide them: their ultimate intention was to go on to Port Essington. The man who acted as pilot was unable to find the wreck, and after much piloting on board in consequence, and the loss of two men by drowning, and of another who was left upon a small uninhabited island, they made their way up to Torres Strait, where, during a gale of wind, their vessel struck upon a reef on the Eastern Prince of Wales Island. The two remaining men were lost in attempting to swim on shore through the surf, but the woman was afterwards rescued by a party of natives on a turtle excursion, who, when the gale subsided, swam on board, and supported her on shore between two of their number. One of these blacks, Boroto by name, took possession of the woman as his share of the plunder; she was compelled to live with him, but was well treated by all the men, although many of the women, jealous of the attention shown her, for a long time evinced anything but kindness. A curious circumstance secured for her the protection of one of the principal men of the tribe a party from which had been the fortunate means of rescuing her, and which she afterwards found to be the Kowarrega, chiefly inhabiting Muralug, or the Western Prince of Wales Island. This person, named Paiaqui, acting upon the belief (universal throughout Australia and the Islands of Torres Strait so far as hitherto known) that white people are the ghosts of the aborigines, fancied that in the stranger he recognized a long-lost daughter of the name of Gi(a)om, and at once admitted her to the relationship which he thought had formerly subsisted between them; she was immediately acknowledged by the whole tribe as one of themselves, thus ensuring an extensive connexion in relatives of all denominations. From the head-quarters of the tribe with which Gi'om thus became associated being upon an island which all vessels passing through Torres Strait from the eastward must approach within two or three miles, she had the mortification of seeing from twenty to thirty or more ships go through every summer without anchoring in the neighbourhood, so as to afford the slightest opportunity of making her escape. Last year she heard of our two vessels (described as two war canoes, a big and a little one) being at Cape York—only twenty miles distant—from some of the tribe who had communicated with us and been well treated, but they would not take her over, and even watched her more narrowly than before. On our second and present visit, however, which the Cape York people immediately announced by smoke signals to their friends in Muralug, she was successful in persuading some of her more immediate friends to bring her across to the main land within a short distance of where the vessels lay. The blacks were credulous enough to believe that 'as she had been so long with them, and had been so well treated, she did not intend to leave them,—only she felt a strong desire to see the white people once more and shake hands with them;' adding, that she would be certain to procure some axes, knives, tobacco, and other much-prized articles. This appeal to their cupidity decided the question at once. After landing at the sandy bay on the western side of Cape York, she hurried across to Evans' Bay, as quickly as her lameness would allow, fearful that the blacks might change their mind; and well it was that she did so, as a small party of men followed to detain her, but arrived too late. Three of these people were brought on board at her own request, and as they had been instrumental in saving her from the wreck, they were presented with an axe a-piece, and other presents. Upon being asked by Captain Stanley whether she really preferred remaining with us to accompanying

the natives back to their island, as she would be allowed her free choice in the matter, she was so much agitated as to find difficulty in expressing her thankfulness, making use of scraps of English alternately with the Kowarrega language, and then suddenly awaking to the recollection that she was not understood, the poor creature blushed all over, and, with downcast eyes, beat her forehead with her hand, as if to assist in collecting her scattered thoughts. At length, after a pause, she found words to say,—'Sir, I am a Christian, and would rather go back to my own friends.' At the same time, it was remarked by every one that she had not lost the feelings of womanly modesty—even after having lived so long among native blacks; she seemed acutely to feel the singularity of her position—dressed only in a couple of shirts, in the midst of a crowd of her own countrymen. When first seen on shore our new shipmate presented so dirty and wretched an appearance that some people who were out shooting at first mistook her for a *gin*, and were passing by without taking further notice, when she called out to them in English, 'I am a white woman, why do you leave me?' With the exception of a narrow fringe of leaves in front, she wore no clothing, and her skin was tanned and blistered with the sun, and showed the marks of several large burns which had been received from sleeping too near the fire on cold nights; besides, she was suffering from ophthalmia, which had previously deprived her of the sight of one eye. But good living, and every comfort (for Captain Stanley kindly provided her with a cabin and a seat at his table), combined with medical attention, very soon restored her health, and she was eventually handed over to her parents in Sydney in excellent condition."

Light was thrown on the ways and wishes of these wild human creatures by Mrs. Thomson. Though an illiterate person, according to our narrator, she could tell what she had seen: and having never wholly lost her self-respect, had acquired a certain popularity and influence among the blacks. She had also been courted to become the Queen-Consort of Wini;—one of those white fiends of whom mention has been made. This man "had reached Mulgrave Island in a boat after having, by his own account, killed his companions, some three or four in number," and had established himself as a celebrity among the Badús,—partly by cunning, partly by unceremoniously "procuring the death of his principal enemies."

"Wini's character appears from the accounts I have heard—for others corroborated part of Gi'om's statement—to be a compound of villany and cunning, in addition to the ferocity and headstrong passions of a thorough savage,—it strikes me that he must have been a runaway convict, probably from Norfolk Island. It is fortunate that his sphere of mischief is so limited, for a more dangerous ruffian could not easily be found. As matters stand at present, it is probable that not only during his life, but for years afterwards, every European who falls into the hands of the Badú people will meet with certain death."

Since we have accidentally got into the vein of telling black stories, we will make room for yet another picture, taken at Cape York: and, with it, conclude our extracts for the week.—

"One evening I was asked to join a party made up for the purpose of witnessing a native dance. Many strange blacks were then encamped on the margin of the beach, and altogether about 150 people belonging to four or five tribes had collected. Not being apprised of our coming they showed much surprise and suspicion at our landing after dark, but, with some trouble, a number were induced by the promise of a quantity of biscuit to get up a dance round a large fire on the sand to the music of a drum which we had taken with us to announce our approach. The dance after all was a very poor affair,—none of the performers were painted and decorated, there was little scenic effect, and they seemed glad when it was over. The bag containing the promised biscuit was most injudiciously handed over to an old woman named Baki, or 'queena woman Baki,' as some one had taught her to call herself, for distribution among the party. She doled out a few handfuls to some women and children who had not been

at all concerned in the matter, and would have marched off with the remainder had she not been prevented. The appointment of a woman to this office gave great offence to the men who had been dancing,—while not one among them would have scrupled forcibly to deprive her of the whole on the very first opportunity, yet every man there scorned the idea of having to ask a woman for anything,—the consequence was that the performers were not rewarded, and naturally imagined that we had broken faith with them. The discontent increased, some of the men left in a state of great excitement, and went for their spears and throwing sticks. One or two rockets were sent up soon after to amuse them, on which the few remaining women and children hurried to their sheds of bark and hid their faces in terror. When a blue light was burned, and lit up the gloomy shadows of the neighbouring bush, it disclosed the spectral figures of many armed men among the trees, singly and in groups, intently watching our motions. Paidā, who with other native allies of ours still remained with us, was very urgent for us to be off, telling me that spears would be thrown immediately (*kaibā kalaka māro*); being a *kotaia* of mine, he considered himself bound to attend to my safety, so conducted me to the boat, which he assisted in shoving off, nor did he retire from the beach until we had got into deep water."

The death of Capt. Stanley is fresh in the memory of most geographical readers as having taken place in March, 1850.—"It was originally intended," says the Preface, "that the narrative of the Rattlesnake's voyage should be written conjointly by that lamented officer and our author:—but the purpose could not be wrought out under the circumstances." Ere we take leave of Mr. Macgillivray's share in the volumes before us,—let us state that our extracts in no degree represent the variety of information collected by him—which is considerable. We shall return, however, to this work for the sake of its appendical matter: the account of Mr. Kennedy's disastrous exploring Expedition. This is so replete with interest—of the saddest conceivable kind—that it claims to be set apart for a separate article.

#### *The Poetical Works of John Edmund Reade.* 2 vols. Chapman & Hall.

THE finally collected poems of a writer so long and earnestly devoted to his art as Mr. Reade claim more than a passing record. In these days when, with few exceptions, brevity and finish are the characteristics of our poets, the large and various designs of the present author are a novelty and in themselves a merit. In many instances, too, Mr. Reade has dared themes which task to the utmost "the vision and the faculty divine;" and his volumes contain examples of almost every form that poetry can take—lyrical drama, tragedy, the simple lyric, the philosophical poem, the narrative poem, and the ballad. We can add, that, notwithstanding this variety of aim, a poetic appropriateness is shown in each class of examples,—and that Mr. Reade's powers are developed more strikingly in each successive effort. His latest works—'Italy,' and the 'Revelations of Life'—are his most mature and original performances. Of the last of these we have formerly spoken in terms of high and deserved praise.

The earlier poems in these volumes must rank amongst their most ambitious but least pleasing contents. This result arises not so much from inability to grapple with the argument as from a too pains-taking evolution of it. Mr. Reade is not content to throw strong lights on the crises of his themes, and by a few pregnant strokes to imply much that it is tedious to unfold. He insists on making the minutest point apparent,—and accordingly his chief features sometimes weary the eye for want of shadow to relieve them. Thus, in the 'Drama of a Life,' which is intended to show two extremes of

character, the author paints both with such minute precision, that we are inclined to sift the arguments for truth rather than to bow before it with that instinct which the poet should compel. On this account, the style of Mr. Reade's first volume is more remarkable for its general dignity than for passages which arrest by their fire and their beauty. There are such passages, however, though they are liable to the charge of being "worked up." We would rather that the golden apples of poetry were snatched at a bound than gathered from a ladder. But that the following are from the garden of the Hesperides, their own flavour will testify.—

#### *A Portrait of Lucifer.*

How unlike art thou  
To the large imagings of power and beauty  
We draw from Nature! Thou, divest of all,  
Imposhest more; thou lookest formed of clouds,  
Shaped up of storms and tempests distant seen;  
Crested with lightnings, folding in their breasts  
The buried thunder.

#### *The Heavens by Night.*

O thou bright star-dewed wilderness of ether!  
Thou black and vaulted infinite lit up  
With waving fires! point ye forth the paths  
To the Almighty presence, step by step  
Of infinite ascension? or are ye  
Gods in yourselves, with choral hymn fulfilling  
Secrets of the Ineffable? or worlds  
All beautiful and fading as wreathed flowers,  
For ye seem scattered thus in profuse love  
To wither there and die? oh, no! ye are,  
Ye look immortal. Ye were not create  
To perish; to shine thus and pass away  
Making him mourn who made you: none could look  
On you, and be destroyed.

#### *Beginning of the Deluge.*

The fountains of the great deep are unbound.  
Behold the hills heave reeling like the waves  
That howl around them, from their cleft brows hurled  
Waters and flames, vapour, and smoke, and cloud  
Swirling above their ruins! From their caves  
Bound forth the maddened brutes, the rent earth gaps  
Opening to her foundations, the great world  
Revealed of unimaginable shapes;  
A chaos wilderness of life and death  
Blasted by fires above, or crushed beneath,  
Heaved upward toasting in their misty shroud!  
The innumerable crush of living things,  
The winds with their annihilating wings,  
The answering waters buried in the sound  
Of thunders rending the red firmament;  
While lightning fitfully the gloom profound,  
Sky-cleaving lightnings show the opened Eye  
Of the Avenger visible!

#### *A Picture from the same.*

Amid the storm  
I see, I see a giant Form!  
Lo, his vast Shadow blackens through  
The clouds and gives a darker hue.  
He stretcheth forth his hand, yon sun  
Burying in night,—its course is done!  
No light sheds o'er the lurid glow,  
Save faintly from where far  
Glow the red furnace of yon star,  
Torching the Earth into her tomb.

—We must object to the confusion—not to say grammatical inaccuracy—of our third quotation. Mr. Reade's fondness for ellipsis often betrays him into obscurity and harshness of expression.

It is, however, as we have said, chiefly in the author's first volume that these and yet more serious defects are obvious. His later writings are marked by an easier verse, and by fancy and feeling at once mellowed and more vigorous. Unfortunately Mr. Reade often labours under a self-imposed disadvantage by choosing subjects that we have been accustomed to identify with previous and illustrious writers. The very titles of the 'Deluge' and 'Destiny,' or 'Cain,' and the Spenserian stanza and general design of 'Italy,' at once recall, as we have long since pointed out, a name which drowns in its brightness all poetic lights that invade its sphere. We cannot but regret that Mr. Reade has dared the established constellations of Song, all the more because he has a lustre of his own which would have been better discerned in some place of the poetic sky that was not already shining with their glory.

But while the plan and stanza of 'Italy' continually suggest 'Childe Harold,' the composition itself is such as only an original and

independent poet could have written. 'Italy' abounds in grace and dignity of thought,—its style is musical and impressive—its pictures, never devoid of elegance, at times reach sublimity. As a companion amidst the shrines of Art, historic memory and natural beauty, we could always refer with pleasure to this work. An extract or two will probably make the reader of our opinion.—

Lo, that lone Statue! lonely as a cloud  
Above the desert: in his beauty he  
Is sorrowful, his thoughtful head is bowed,  
His drooping torch sinks quenched beside his knee;  
Thoughts of the past and of futurity  
Darken his brow, his lonely spirit yearns  
For a life passed into eternity:  
The Spirit of Death his deathless being mourns:  
The beautiful is gone, and ne'er, alas! returns.

Dark Vallombrosa! thy Etrurian shade  
Is hallowed by a spell that is not thine:  
A spirit lingers here that doth pervade  
The sanctuary moulded to a shrine:  
Earth gathers to her something of divine,  
Our human memories on her impressed:  
Memnonian image! as, with touches fine  
Morn's thrilling fingers on his bosom pressed,  
So genius wakens life from thy responsive breast!  
Doubt'st thou her inspirations? lo, yon peaks  
Titanic, burying their spears in heaven  
As if they dared the thunder; or where reeks  
Through mist and foam yon waters headlong driven,  
Hurled over trees and precipices riven:  
Hark! to their roar in yon Tartarean dell,  
Ravings of the tortured unforgiven:  
Type they not elder faiths? do they not tell  
The strife of powers opposed, the war of Heaven and Hell?

Lo! round the mountain's scathed sides like a wall,  
Pines lightning-blasted, wear such forms as wore  
The thunder-stricken Angels: like a pall  
The up-seething mists rise shrouding white and hoar,  
Forests all crushed: still rising from the roar  
Of waters their wild branches red and aere,  
Thick as the weeds on Ocean's surf-beated shore;  
This is the vale of shadow: pause thou here  
Where deathless Milton trod, that sacred ground revere!

Mid-day burns o'er the waste, the sky around  
A sea of flame: earth motionless as Death  
Had passed along, blasting the shadowless ground:  
Air vibrating in lightning hath no breath,  
The red-eyed buffaloes stretch o'er the heath,  
Or, maddening, in narrowing circles gain  
Where shrunken Tibur recks his weeds beneath,  
The Spirit of Fire doth on his altar reign,  
Life felt that he was there, hiding her face in vain!

Buried in woods, grey Pan with upraised head,  
Fixed on broad heaven his unmoved sightless eyes,  
The quickening soul of nature from him fled:  
His oaten pipe amid the sedges lies,  
Answering no more life's ancient melodies!  
His Nymphs are fled: transformed yet visible,  
In the stream glow the Naiads' azure eyes;  
The inconstant Oread flits along the hill!  
The sun-lit boughs reveal the Dryads' shadow still!

This second volume contains a drama entitled 'Catiline':—ground also previously occupied by an English poet of distinction. The diction of Mr. Reade's drama is nervous and eloquent, the springs of motive are justly traced, and the situations are in many parts stirring and dramatic. The play is diffuse, and sometimes flags in action,—but it has passion and individuality. It is, at all events, *literature*,—and contrasts well with works of which motiveless and strained incident is the "be-all and the end-all," and in which the drawing of characters is like the setting up of skittles—as easy and as important!

Could we afford the space, more than one striking scene might be quoted from this drama of 'Catiline' to show that Mr. Reade understands the principles of true dramatic effect. The Senate scene in the fourth act, where Cicero hurls his memorable invective against Catiline, is not only finely characterized but exciting, and with due curtailment would tell powerfully on the stage. The attitude of Catiline when, finding concealment useless, he throws off his toga and stands out armed with the exclamation

Look—I AM WAR! as I throw off these robes—is a capital point,—and well acted would "raise the pit."

Unable to give any extract of sufficient length to do Mr. Reade justice, we cite an average



sample of his more level dialogue. The following remonstrance of Cæsar with Catiline reads almost like a comment on atrocities that are now startling Europe. Catiline, it is true, was not the avowed guardian of his country,—and there is a distinction between the bravo who menaces his victim openly and the coward who stabs him in sleep. An apology is due, therefore, to the Roman conspirator for the parallel; but with the reservation named, this likeness between his and a contemporary infamy can hardly be overlooked.—

Catiline. But thou art not dead  
To glorious ambition? and what opens  
So grand a field as ours? We shall be hailed  
Regenerators of the State of Rome!  
What was Leonida's band to ours?  
They died to guard their country's liberties;  
We live to raise ours from their ashes.  
Cæsar. But  
In rooting up the weeds, and when the fire  
Is lighted, who shall stop its wasting course?  
To pluck the Senate from their seats were well,  
And raze the hive where they have droned so long,  
But who shall stay the strokes of private hate?  
The soldier's license? passions of the herd?  
What law shall hold them in who hold the LAW  
In their red hands!  
Fame, say'st thou? we shall be  
For ever infamous, through all time accused!  
If I am feverish—pardon!—but I love  
My country:—I am a Roman, and a proud one;  
And I would rather she had all her faults,  
And they are legion, magnified tenfold,  
Than see her sacrificed to a lawless crew,  
Who prate of freedom only to enslave her!

Among his longer poems, Mr. Reade occasionally scatters short descriptive or lyrical pieces. Some of them, like wild flowers nestling in the fissures of mountains, will attract many whom the bleakness of the heights might deter. We make room for one example, from the 'Dance of the Nereids.'—

Anon amid dim glades I passed, peeped forth  
Brown Dryad forms half visible: shapes of beauty  
Ripe as red Autumn's fruits: through wind-sung boughs  
I heard Pan's oaten reed, 'mid rustling leaves  
The shy Fawns hurried from me in their flight.  
Thou know'st, loved friend! each haunt of those wild  
paths:  
How there the cedar and the cypress flourish,  
The linden and the feminine silver fir  
Hanging its golden flower: the mistletoe  
Pendant from its thick boughs; where like a king  
The regal rhododendron throws around  
His purple clusters, where the giant myrtle  
Fashions impervious bowers of cloudiest green,  
Star-roofed with jessamine and eglantine.  
How the gray crags shoot up from tangled copse,  
Baring their veteran brows, o'resmeared with scars  
Of tempest past, and crowned with myrtle wreaths,  
Meed of endurance due and trophy won.  
Thou knowest how the overshadowing woods  
Cling there together sheltered by the cliffs:  
And how the azure sea with dimpling smiles  
Steals into the embraces of the land.  
In many arms and covert nooks, filling  
Each silent haunt through which its glides along  
With a low note of music and of joy!

We take our leave of these volumes with a full sense of the accomplished mind and various powers of the writer,—with respect for a tone of thought habitually pure and just, and even for the patience which by its slow processes has sometimes taxed our own. His poems have undergone careful revision, and thrown off many of the faults by which they were disfigured on their early appearance. Of the taint which they take from imitation of theme nothing can cure them.

*Almanac for Algeria, 1852*—[*Almanach de l'Algérie*]. Published after Documents in the Office of the Minister of War.

We have been more than once tempted to give our readers some idea of the present state of Almanac literature in France,—but have been deterred by the difficulty of dealing in our columns with the subjects of which it treats almost exclusively. An egg-dance would be a positively easy exercise compared to the feat of skimming over those little books without breaking in on politics. Some twenty years ago, the 'Almanach Liégeois,' the 'Grand Albert,' or the 'Messager Boiteux,' with others of the same

description, were the only Almanacs to be found in French villages; and these, while abounding in false notions and absurd superstitions, were guiltless of any attempt—judicious or erroneous—to produce social reforms, or to spread new theories of political economy. It was not to be supposed, however, that a publication which found its way into the poorest homes, and frequently formed the whole library of peasant families, would long be overlooked as an instrument of propagandism. Under cover of the calendar seed could be sown which might fall on favourable soil,—and accordingly, the sowers set to work. During the reign of Louis Philippe, in spite of frequent prosecutions and judicial vexations, we find the number of democratic Almanacs steadily increasing, and gradually enlisting among their contributors the most remarkable names of the popular party;—while the conservatives, less mindful of small opportunities, appear satisfied with being represented by the prophecies of Nostradamus or the predictions of Mathieu Laensberg. With all these works (some of them far from devoid of literary merit) we can have no dealing; and we must pass over 'La République du Peuple,' 'L'Almanach Populaire de la France,' and those 'du Travail,' 'du Village,' 'des Réformateurs,' &c. &c.,—although we find amongst the contributors the names of Arago, George Sand, Lachambeaudie, Pierre Dupont, Pascal Duprat, Michel de Bourges, Alphonse Karr, &c. &c. The 'Almanach Phalanstérien' and the 'Almanach des Opprimés' are still more dangerous ground:—and we feel quite relieved in taking up at last the little book which we mean to introduce to our readers.

The 'Almanac for Algeria' is a very matter-of-fact little work, published under the patronage of the Ministère de la Guerre, and with no pretensions to any ideas of its own,—just such an Almanac as a Dictator would authorize or Prætorians would read—if Prætorians ever read. It contains little more than a few facts, and still fewer figures; but facts and figures are suggestive things, and the tiny volume is far from being devoid of interest. We have often thought how many complications—at first sight unaccountable—would become intelligible by a careful perusal of our Colonial almanacs. Let the reader look at the civil and military establishments,—read the names of officials, and compare them with "collateral branches" in his Peerage,—calculate their salaries as against the revenue of the Colony,—see the duties on the staple produce (whatever that may be) and the commercial stipulations in favour of the mother-country,—and he will soon understand—what, perhaps, he never understood before. In the case of Algeria, the first conclusion we come to, thanks to the figures of our little book, is, that the French are not a colonizing people. When we consider that a territory equal in superficial extent to two-thirds of France, and presenting a line of coast of 250 leagues, within three days' voyage of the mother country, has been partly, at least, under French occupation for upwards of twenty years, and that the European population—exclusive of the military—amounts, even now, to little more than 131,000 souls, we think there can be little doubt of this fact. In spite of the well-founded repugnance of colonists of all nations to settle under the protection of a military government, we think we may safely affirm that the Anglo-Saxon race would have made better use of the opportunity. The surprise increases when we look more closely into statistics. In this scanty population, the French, as compared to other nations, figure in the proportion of fifty-two to forty-eight, or number something less than sixty-six thousand souls. Those who come next on the list are, as might be ex-

pected, the Spaniards,—who may be estimated at about thirty-two per cent. of the European population; and then, in nearly equal numbers are the Italians and the Anglo-Maltese. Each of these latter countries is represented by upwards of seven thousand souls, and forms about six per cent. of the total number of Europeans.

Naturally enough, the three provinces into which Algeria is divided receive their immigrants respectively from those countries which are nearest to each:—the western province of Oran being the chief resort of Spanish colonists, while the Anglo-Maltese and Italians are to be found principally in the provinces of Algiers and Constantine. The English and the Irish elements can scarcely be said to be represented:—their joint numbers amounting to merely two hundred and twenty-one souls.

Algeria, though divided politically speaking into three provinces,—Algiers, Oran and Constantine,—may be said in reality to have been divided by nature into two distinct zones, running parallel to the Mediterranean Sea. To the north, the Tell (Tellus), with its fertile soil, fine forests, comparatively abundant springs and mineral resources, would offer an incomparable field for industry and wealth if to all the blessings of Nature could be added the still greater blessing of a good civil government. On the south, the Sahara—though not quite realizing the dismal pictures conjured up by the name—is composed of desert tracts, with here and there a rare oasis,—and is not likely to be ever tenanted but by the native tribes which form its scanty population. Each of the three provinces includes a portion of these two zones,—being as it were slices in which the lean and the fat of the land are unequally distributed. It may, therefore, be safely prophesied that in due time the province of Constantine, in which the Tell portion is equal to that of Oran and Algiers put together, will be the most tempting field for agricultural settlers. For the present, the least fertile of the three provinces affords sufficient scope for French colonization during many years, and it has been calculated that twenty-two millions of inhabitants might be introduced into Algeria without rendering its population proportionate to that of France. At the Great Exhibition of all Nations, the products of Algeria there exposed, though not numerous, indicated natural wealth which, rightly developed, would insure the prosperity of any colony. Some mineral specimens attracted especially the attention of the learned in such matters. A work by M. Fournel, published in 1849 under the title of 'Richesse Minérale de l'Algérie,' gives a full and satisfactory account of his explorations undertaken by order of the French Government to ascertain the mineralogical resources of Algeria. Something doubtless must be abated from his report, which is written with all the enthusiasm of a discoverer,—and there seems some exaggeration in saying that the under-ground conquest will be the only means of achieving and consolidating the above-ground victories. Nor do the manners and habits of the Kabyles—as far as our knowledge extends—seem to fit them especially, as has been advanced, for mining occupations. Still, there can be no doubt that the mineral riches of Algeria are both abundant and varied.

Of the government of Algeria there is a great deal to be said—a great deal more than can be attempted in an article *apropos* of an almanac. Opinions are divided on that subject—as indeed on every other—in France; some strenuously advocating a complete assimilation of the colony to the mother-country, while others maintain that the continuance of military rule is necessary for the preservation of the conquest. It is



perhaps superfluous to add, that the former opinion is that of civilians of all classes, and the latter the view adopted by the military of all ranks. The present mixed *régime*, intended to conciliate these opposite parties, virtually leaves the superior authority in military hands; so that many of the regulations which were most acceptable to the partizans of civil government—such as, for instance, the organization of municipalities throughout the territory—have received no application, and have, in fact, remained a dead letter. Notwithstanding the royal *ordonnance* of September 1847, there are as yet only six communes really existing in Algeria:—those of Algiers, Blidah, Oran, Mostaganem, Bône, and Philippeville.

The most curious part of the French African Government is, the administration of the subject native tribes. We refer to our little almanac those who may wish to gain, with as little intellectual effort as possible, some information on this head,—as also on the mode of collecting the taxes among the natives (an important item in all governments). We do not remember to have seen the subject as clearly explained, in as few lines, anywhere.

As a closing remark, we may say, that in treating of Algeria we always feel oppressed with a painful consciousness of injustice on the part of the mother-country. The slight degree of national interest excited by a warfare which occupies 80,000 French soldiers and swallows up annually millions of the French budget, appears inexplicable. It would seem as though the conquest of Algiers—the last offspring of an unpopular government—had never recovered the misfortune of its birth. Prodiges of valour are recorded for a day in the newspapers, and then forgotten,—and the nation which still exults at the memory of the campaign of Egypt, and remembers with pride the Pyramids and Aboukir, has but faint praises for the siege of Zaatcha or the taking of Constantine. Of her two African expeditions, France seems to have taken to her heart only the first,—the aimless, senseless Egyptian campaign—ending in defeat and the desertion (give it what name you will) of the general-in-chief, leaving his army in a desperate condition, notwithstanding the awful presence of those “forty centuries” which he averred were looking on. The Algerian conquest has been wanting in that romantic interest and mystery which seem necessary to captivate the sympathies of our neighbours. The present time is not perhaps well chosen for establishing a comparison between the two undertakings, and no episode of the Bonaparte epopee can now be discussed with impartiality; but the calm judgment of History will, we think, give place to the perilous and protracted warfare in which “every man has done his duty,” and during which no general has deserted like Bonaparte or apostatized like Menou, above the vaunting bulletins and fruitless military feats which constitute the campaign of Egypt.

*The Pathway of the Fawn: a Tale of the New Year.* By Mrs. T. K. Hervey. Office of the National Illustrated Library.

THE theme of this book is, the repentance of a dark and selfish heart through an appeal to those common instincts of good which even when dormant are seldom utterly quenched. In this tale the road to the conscience lies through the affections. The writer sees that where self has nipped the kindly buds of life the only chance of true husbandry is to thaw the frozen essence in the root. But the tale must be judged rather as a parable than as a matter-of-fact story in which probability is to be rigidly tested.

A certain Wilhelm von Fern, whose hand has stricken the peace and ultimately the life of

his sister's husband, adds to his fault by usurping her inheritance. To exclude the claims of his sister's son, he conceals the sex of his own daughter, and brings her up as a boy under the name of Berthold. The girl, however, meets by chance her injured relatives, and learns the wrong which they have suffered and her share in promoting it. Overcome with shame and grief for her beloved but disgraced father, she resolves on an attempt to redeem him. She proposes first to kindle emotion in his heart by the absence of herself, the only being whom he loves. Her second aim is, to touch his conscience by placing the semblances of those whom he has wronged before him—both in their early aspects of hope and beauty and in their later ones of want and desolation. She has acquired from her cousin the sculptor's art; and effects her object by conveying to her father's gallery the marble apparitions of his victims. In this appeal to the sensibilities by the voice of the arts, it will be perceived that the writer has worked on the suggestion of Shakespeare's *Hermione*. Such is the main idea of the story. An extract or two will enable our readers to judge of the style in which it is executed.—In our first, Wilhelm von Fern has stood before the sculptured likeness of his sister.—

“Morning found him once again beside the speaking stone. Again he gazed with stricken soul upon that face and form, whose fixed but idealised embodiment of wrong and suffering was at once a beauty and a terror. Day after day found him planted before the spot which it occupied; or pacing with drooping form and measured step the narrow boundary wherein its visible agony seemed to exhale the tortured breath of mortal life. His feet seemed rooted to the spot. The changing heart of the man grew to the marble, till he could find no life but in its presence—no being save that which he drew under the veil of its sorrow, beneath the shadow of its despair. Those about him, unconscious of the secret springs of this newly-awakened and most engrossing passion of the heart, marvelled at his aspect, as hour by hour the workings of remorse drove health from his cheek, and vigour from his step. Much of the change that was marked by all was naturally attributed to the desertion of Berthold—for as Berthold only had the supposed boy been known within those walls. But none dared to question; and the name had long since become a forbidden sound in that forsaken household. Forsaken and deserted it was in every sense. The voice of the child was silent in those chambers as the strings of the broken lute; and when its music sank and died upon the ear of the father, the music of his heart and life died with it. He had never known till he lost the sweetness of her presence how much of his being was bound up in his lost child. She was gone; and the heartless reveller was transformed into a thinking, humanised being. The man of self learned the lesson of humanity—taught by Sorrow in the school of Truth. Meantime, the desolation which grew out of a life aimless as his had now become, showed itself everywhere. The house became a ruin. Weeds grew upon the outer walls, and damp encrusted and corroded within. The garden flowers grew dwarfed and stunted with neglect. Shrubs in their unpruned overgrowth, choked the once clear alleys; and the trailing vines bore shrivelled and tasteless fruit. Where the once trimly-bordered walks conjoined, light pillars, urn-crowned, had stood; breaking here and there the monotonous level line, and blending art with nature. The pillars now had lost their arrowy straightness, sinking into the untended walks, where rain gullies made soft the loose sand; and in the broken and moss-grown urns the unscared birds had built their nests. The wild rabbit left his burrow on the green hill side, and approached the haunts of the tame, where the wild sow-thistle tempted him, growing juicy and tall among the stores of the Kückengarten. The uncleaned fish-ponds wore a surface greener and smoother than the lawns; and deep under the choked-up waters the fish gasped and died. All things seemed to stagnate, save the soul

of that one lonely man. Out of his death—out of his silent, solitary, and deserted being,—alone grew fair fruits. The leaves of his spirit unfolded one by one, unchecked now by the parasite weeds of its earlier, happier day. The waters of his soul flowed freer since the sunlight had forsaken its waves.”

We will give the scene of reconciliation.—Johanna the sister whom Wilhelm von Fern has crushed, Bertha, his self-exiled child, and Ernst her lover look in on the penitent surrounded by the haunting shapes of marble.—

“As they crossed in the shadow of the pillar, their own shadows fell within the room—across the window—over the floor—along the walls. The solitary man within looked drearily round. It seemed, indeed, as if each several statue were once again endued with life, as the gliding shadows swept the pedestal's foot,—crept over the plinth,—flowed along the room, noiseless as air. But the thought disturbed him no more. Imagination was dead,—life a blank. Phantoms might come and go, now. His soul could be darkened by no shadow, for in it there was no more light! Absorbed by his reveries, he saw not the figure of Bertha, as, opening the door noiselessly, she stole into the room, taking her place among the sculptures. Neither did he discern the forms of Ernst and Johanna, standing dark within the doorway. Stricken as he seemed in soul and sense,—in life and reason, how the heart of his child throbbed as she gazed upon him! Dreading a too sudden recognition, she yet longed to throw herself at his feet. Powerless to move, she became almost as rigid as the marble forms by which she was surrounded. She fixed her eyes upon his face, striving to draw from him one encouraging look.—In vain. He looked up, but only took her for another phantom,—one vision the more of all that had long haunted him in the dim chamber of his unrest. Seated in that antique chair, behold him once again. Back through the silent years his visions bear him on. Gentler visions are they to-night,—tender and less terrible! Around that very chair, in days gone by, a child—a sprite—a fairy form, bright as the morn and sinless as the day—sporting beneath his eye. He sees it now as then he saw it; but it eludes his grasp. He sinks back powerless.—It is gone! His arm hangs listlessly over the chair.—Suddenly he feels his fingers caught. On their enclosed palm soft kisses are pressed. Climbing his knee, light limbs spring upward with a bound, and rounded arms are circling his neck. Childhood's lips are pressed to his,—oh, breath than violets sweeter! The rack that rides his heart moves his uneasy limbs. He rocks to and fro, and the antique chair creaks with the crazy motion. No rest—no rest! The action renews the dream. The clinging arms relax. It is childhood's hour of sleep. The fragile form his stronger arms entwine; the little weary head falls sideways on his neck; the azure eyes are veiled beneath their drowsy lids. Motherless, but not forlorn, she sleeps—upon his bosom, sleeps; and, beating time with rocking bound, he sings a low, wild nursery song,—to the music of his heart and hers! Oh, days for ever gone! Beside an airy lute he sees her next, wearing the day down with the twilight of sweet song,—some melody mournful as the dying day. He knows youth's passion for the sorrowful, and smiles. Her beaming glance meets his. His smile is multiplied on her sweet cheek; eye, mouth, and dimpled cheek, are running o'er with mirth. Her ringing laugh sounds like merry bells in breezeless evening hour,—no sigh to steal its sweetness from the ear. Oh, music hushed for aye! He hears with sense half-dead; he sees,—and yet sees not. His retrospective spirit passes into the dim eclipse of time, and discerns not clearly the blank, cheerless now. The sun of his past days, half-veiled, throws but a dreary light on all that is: but he knows that none save phantoms are around him;—he feels he is alone. Whence, then, the hand that closes round his own? Has one of the statues left its place, and, gliding to his chair, laid its stony hand in his? That was no marble touch—no clay-cold clasp! Is it some trick of memory that beguiles him? He cannot tell, for the darkness alike without and within him. A sigh! It can be but a fiction of the brain, like all the rest. Yet surely again there are shadows crossing to and fro, blending with the shadows of the marble, on the

well? He draws his hand away. The phantom—if phantom it be—will not be so rebuked. He feels his fingers drawn by magic, but not ungentle force, between the warm and throbbing veins of something too like life. He starts!—Is it gone? His eyes swim; he cannot see. He feels the pressure still! Agony of agonies!—His child? She must be dead, and this her presence, in the semblance of quick life, come back to haunt, then spurn him. He turns aside. No respite! The fellow-hand is clusped; he is bound down and fettered on all sides. He strives to rise; a nightmare presses down his limbs. A sob—a stifled sob, a struggle of quick breath close to his ear,—a voice of long ago—thrills him! He lifts his eyes. What form is that he sees standing erect before him, like a seraph to lead to—not bar from—Paradise? What angel-hearted guest stands thus with mute and humble look before his face of guilt? Is it the guardian-spirit of his child; or one he knew in his life-days, that are no more? Both! As he gazes on that placid brow, serene in holy youth, a strange dim retrospect is his. Again it is New Year's Eve. The swift mysterious rushing of the viewless wind is in his ear, as he heard it on that night in the hardness of his heart. The dead hush follows, and the beating pulse!—The hour is to him as that hour. The cloud upon his brain has dimmed his sight; the shadows of the mind mingle with the shadows before him and around him,—the unreal with the actual,—till all is clothed in mist, as a sea-foam! Another and another deeper sob, on either side! What dreadful doom awaits him? Terrible avengers!—yet they kneel! Dread messengers of wrath!—they weep! The spectral forms from which he shrinks—do they bear him on viewless wings to expiatory shades? See! the dreaded doom reversed! To his heart he bears them—on his breast! The only shriek that echoes to the roof is the shriek not of a lost, but of a recovered soul. It fills the air but with one tone, one pulse of unutterable joy!—Bertha!—Johanna!"

The illustrations, by Mr. G. B. Thomas, are profuse,—some elegant,—and all appropriate to the scene and period of the story.

## OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*A Short Account of the late Discoveries of Gold in Australia.* By Capt. John E. Erskine, R.N.—Capt. Erskine condenses into this pamphlet a *précis* of most of what has appeared in the Colonial newspapers relative to the circumstances which led to the discovery of gold in Australia,—the effects which that discovery produced in the first instance in New South Wales,—and generally the present condition of the enterprise of gold-finding in the Bathurst and other districts. Capt. Erskine was himself in Sydney when the great intelligence arrived from the interior; and before leaving Australia he paid a short visit to the mining region—if that process can be properly called mining which consists in merely scarfing the surface of the earth. The substantial value of this pamphlet is, that it confirms on clear and good authority most of the statements which have appeared in the Sydney newspapers. In point of fact there seems to have been a singular and most creditable absence of exaggeration in the accounts sent here from the colony. From the very first the whole occurrence has been treated as a sober matter of business,—thanks to English prudence and honesty even in a convict settlement at the Antipodes. Capt. Erskine does no more than write a bare chronicle, or we should have entered more freely into his narrative. What he has done, however, will be useful. The map with which he illustrates his work is one of the best and most intelligible that we have seen of the gold fields,—localities which the zeal of many, and the skill of some, of our colonial topographers will presently render as familiar to curious people as the configuration of the New Forest or of Salisbury Plain.

*The Life of Moses: first Lawgiver of Oriental and Occidental Mankind.* By Dr. John Lotsky.—Dr. Lotsky styles this brief tract on the career and legislation of Moses "a programme of European (continental) democracy,"—and he signs himself "citizen of the U.S. Panslavia." Here are at least two mysteries on the title-page. We won-

dered before we read his book—and we wonder still—what connexion even a Slavonic dreamer may discover between Moses and the Red Republicans. As to the United States of Panslavia, we know not where to look for them,—and consequently gain no definite notion as to Dr. Lotsky's citizenship. The purpose of the brochure—if it have a purpose beyond that of serving as the asserted "programme"—would seem to be the illustration of a doctrine older than Dr. Lotsky,—namely, that the books of the Pentateuch were compiled from older books, of which they are a romantic and quasi-poetical version.

*A Sketch of Madeira.* By E. V. Harcourt.—A book written somewhat on the dictionary principle; with no higher merits, perhaps no higher pretensions, than a common guide-book. Mr. Harcourt tells his reader where to ride, what to see, and how to live,—and distributes praise with liberal pen to his particular friends and favourites in Funchal and its neighbourhood. There is no harm in the book,—and no great amount of good.

*The Archer's Prize.* By the Author of 'Adelaide's Gift on New Year's Day.'—A pretty story for children. The scene is laid in Ireland;—and the authoress seems to have some notion of interesting the mind of the young generation in that country by means of her little harmless fiction. Her design is commendable enough. We are sorry we cannot extend our praise to the power exhibited in the attempt to achieve it.

*The Spirit and Scope of Education in promoting the Well-Being of Society.* Translated from the German of Dr. Stapf, by Robert Gordon.—Dr. Stapf's work on education, of which we have here a very fair translation, has been twenty years before the German public, and in that time it has gone through three editions:—an amount of success accorded to very few works indeed in that book-producing country. But we do not think it likely to become a favourite with our less formal and less system-loving people. The argument is divided, extended and elucidated, without pause or mercy, through nearly five hundred closely printed pages, and in a style of extreme heaviness and monotony. The first necessity of a book is, that it shall be readable:—failing in that, it must fail altogether. We fancy this will prove to be the case with Mr. Gordon's translation of Dr. Stapf.

*Harrington's Desideratum for the Age, a Masonic Work, wherein the First Principles which constitute Nature are explained, as well as certain other natural Phenomena; the Cause of Poverty, that dire Disease which is now preying on the Vitals of Mankind, shown, and the Remedy that will remove this Disease and restore all to Health and Happiness pointed out.*—Unable to give our readers a clear idea of Mr. Harrington's desideratum as the result of our own understanding of it, we have allowed him in some sort to speak for himself by transcribing the whole of his title. It is a fair specimen of the book,—style and thought included. Certain geometrical figures, broken into compartments and labelled like M. Cabot's famous prospectus of *Icarie*, seem to be intended as explanations of the "desideratum,"—but we forbear to go any deeper into cabalistic mysteries.

*An earnest Plea for the Reign of Temperance and Peace, as conducive to the Prosperity of Nations.* By James Silk Buckingham.—Mr. Buckingham pleads strongly for his favourite reform. No knight at bidding of his lady-love ever put lance in rest and flew to the arena of arms with more apparent devotion than he rushes to the combat with the great ogre Drunkenness. His success is probably not equal to his ardour,—but that may be a misfortune rather than a fault. No one will deny that the picture which he draws is repulsive, or that his way of stating the statistics of his case is striking. There is doubtless a class of readers to whom such a book may be useful.

*Observations on the Genus Unio, &c.* Vol. IV. By Isaac Lea.—It is pleasant amidst all the material activity of the United States to find ourselves ever and anon called on to bear testimony to the love of nature, truth, and beauty which there develops itself. In Mr. Lea's book we have descriptions and drawings of shells, originally published in the 'Transactions of the American Philo-

sophical Society,' which would have done honour to any of the scientific Societies of Europe. Such works can be of interest only to the professed conchologist;—but in his hands they become treasures of facts by which he works out the great laws of morphology regulating the animal forms that he more particularly studies. The shells described in this volume are for the most part American, and from fresh water:—and indicate how large a field for natural history inquiry the vast continent of America still presents.

*A Treatise on Investments.* By Robert A. Ward.—Mr. Ward is a solicitor, and has written this compact little volume for the purpose of giving his clients and the public a general notion of the circumstances which determine the eligibility or non-eligibility of investments generally. The treatise is partly legal and partly practical,—meaning by the latter term, such arguments and facts as are intended to point out the sound or unsound character of any particular class of securities as objects on which to advance money. It would have been better, we think, if Mr. Ward had somewhat extended this portion of his treatise. The legal hints are good and useful; but, in a book not intended for professional use, the order of readers to whom Mr. Ward appeals would have been better pleased to have heard more of the practical than of the technical rules which govern investments. The earlier chapters are the best written. Several of the concluding essays are meagre and imperfect; and we observe that in several instances Mr. Ward does not succeed well in describing the processes of calculation by which the value of different species of contingent investments is ascertained. Taken as a whole, however, the volume will be serviceable; and we incline to think it might with advantage to Mr. Ward and to the public be made the precursor of a larger treatise, in which the legal element should not be so conspicuous as in the present publication.

*The Industrial Progress of England: a Lecture delivered at Abergavenny.* By Sir Thomas Philips.—Sir Thomas Philips in this able and interesting discourse contrasts the position of England and Wales a century ago with its present state. The facts cited are by no means recondite,—but they are brought together and contrasted in a way to startle many readers as they look respectively "on this picture and on this."

*The History of the Church of England, from the Revolution to the last Act of Convocation, A.D. 1688—1717.* By the Rev. William Palin.—Referring to the writings of Short, Carwithen, and Southey on the affairs of the Church in this country, Mr. Palin regrets that those writers have not brought down their histories below the time of the revolution,—and in the absence of sufficiently copious accounts proposes to tell the story himself. The first volume, put out on trial, is now before us. We cannot say that it is a good specimen. What are of essential importance in such a work, are—a careful sifting of authorities and accurate reference to all the sources of information. We find neither in Mr. Palin's work. His notes are few—his references vague—his authorities frequently second-hand. What can a writer know about the history of the period immediately preceding the dethronement of James the Second, who is driven to quote facts about William Penn from Mr. Macaulay!

*The Six Colonies of New Zealand.* By William Fox.—Mr. Fox has not only travelled over a considerable part of New Zealand, but has held various public offices in the colony; his opinions are, therefore, entitled to more attention and his statements of fact have more weight than can be safely attributed to the works of ordinary settlers. His book is enriched with an excellent map, embodying the most recent information from all parts of the three islands.

*Memoirs of Gonsalvo Hernandez de Cordova, styled the Great Captain.* Translated from the Spanish of Don Manuel José Quintana. By Joseph Russell.—Gonzalvo de Cordova was the general employed by Ferdinand and Isabella in the reduction of Granada. The story of his life is meagrely told;—but such as it is, being the only decent biography of the successful soldier accessible to English readers, Mr. Russell's translation may



prove useful to some of those who delight in the romance of war and chivalry.

*Life Assurance Manual: comprising the Principles of Assurance, Life Contingencies, &c.* By Philip A. Eagle.—This book cannot be said with any degree of truth to fulfil the statement of its title-page. It is true that it contains a considerable amount of useful figures and information; but the task of the author has been confined almost wholly to the mere business of collecting materials,—and none of those materials are of more than very ordinary value. The bulk of the volume is occupied, by a *résumé* of the rates of premium charged by some of the existing insurance offices. Constructed with intelligence and industry such a tabular abstract would be exceedingly interesting and useful;—but we cannot bestow our praise on the manner in which the task has been here executed. There are everywhere traces of hastiness and crudeness of view, and an absence of judgment in the selection of the facts to be brought forward, which go far to render Mr. Eagle's book little better than some other publications on the same subject that have lately proceeded from writers somewhat too hasty in setting themselves up as life assurance authorities.

*A Memoir of Ireland in 1850.* By an Ex-M.P.—All rampant and aristocratic, our Ex-M.P. finds in Ireland the *spectre rouge* which so alarms the statesmen of our neighbours across the channel. He claims it as his own especial discovery, that "the morbid and restless spirit of democracy, tinged to a considerable extent with the principles of what is termed communism, appears to have taken a strong hold of the popular affections." In this spirit he sees the essence of all "gorgons and chimeras dire." Imagination, he tells us, "cannot figure a position of greater unhappiness than that of a nation at strife with existing monarchical and aristocratic institutions;"—and in this tone of supreme prejudice and unreason he continues to the end of his chapter. We had marked a few passages for correction and exposition; but on looking back to them it strikes us as not worth the trouble.

*Arvine's Cyclopædia of Moral and Religious Anecdotes.* By John Flisher.—This *ulla podrida* consists of a collection—in which the agency of paste and scissors is more conspicuous than that of taste and judgment—of incidents, narratives, examples, and testimonies, arranged on what is called "a new plan, with copious topical and scriptural indexes." It appears to be the first part of a serial.

*Autobiography of William Stout, of Lancaster, schoolmaster and retail Grocer and Ironmonger, a Member of the Society of Friends, A.D. 1665—1752.* Edited from the original MS. By J. Harland.—This work is reprinted from the *Manchester Guardian* newspaper, and is carefully edited by Mr. Harland. But it is of no great value. No new historical matter turns up in it,—nothing of curious or novel interest even about the leading Quakers. George Fox is not, so far as we remember, mentioned in it; William Penn is briefly alluded to, but no new fact is stated. We should be glad to see Mr. Harland's care and attention bestowed on a more productive theme.

*Taxation; its Nature and Properties, with Remarks on the Incidence and the Expediency of the Repeal of the Income Tax.* By Alexander Gordon.—A very long and prosy attempt to prove that our present taxes are not based on intelligible or immutable principles,—that they are capable of important modifications and improvements;—facts which no one thinks of disputing. Mr. Gordon has, however, collected many statistics of value in studying the question of taxation,—so that his labours may not have been in vain.

Since our former paragraph on the progress of the various "Popular Libraries," we find that Mr. Murray has added to his series entitled "Literature of the Rail"—James's *Fables of Æsop*, and an abridgment of Layard's work on *Nineveh*.—Hue's *Travels in Tartary* and the fourth volume of *Boswell's Johnson* have been added to the "Illustrated National Library."—Mr. Bohn has enriched his "Scientific Library" with Richardson's *Geology and Palæontology* and Agassiz and Gould's *Comparative Physiology*; for the excellent series called the "Standard Library" he has reprinted *Vasari's*

*Lives of the Painters*, Vol. III.,—*Neander's Church History*,—and the same writer's *Planting of Christianity*,—Gregory's *Evidences of the Christian Religion*,—and James's *Life of Louis XIV.*, Vols. I. and II. In the same publisher's "Antiquarian Library" we find the first volume of a reprint of *Sir Thomas Browne's* works,—a very desirable issue, but we should have expected to find it in the "Standard" rather than in the "Antiquarian" series. To the "Classical Library" we find an addition in the shape of a new translation of *Cicero's Orations*. We are glad to see the spirit with which these literary undertakings are continued;—by them Mr. Bohn has entitled himself to the gratitude of many poor scholars.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Arnold's *Life and Correspondence*, by Stanley, 7th edit. 8vo. 12s. cl.  
Arthur's (W. M.A.) *The Successful Merchant*, post 8vo. 5s. cl.  
Bastie's (The) *of the*, 8vo. 12s. cl.  
Batemann's *Sacred Melodies for Children*, 32mo. 1s. cl.  
Bohn's *Cheap Series*, Hawthorne's *Snow Image*, &c. 12mo. 1s. bds.  
Bohn's *Classical Library*, Pindar's *Odes*, Trans. by Turner, 5s. cl.  
Bohn's *Scientific Library*, Humboldt's *Travels to Equinoctial Regions of America*, Vol. 1, 12mo. 5s. cl.  
Bohn's *Standard Library*, *Neander's Church History*, Vol. 6. 12mo. 5s. cl.  
Bonnechose's *Reformers before the Reformation*, cr. 8vo. 5s. cl.  
Browne's *Two Stories for my Young Friends*, 12mo. 1s. bds.  
Carr's *Classical Pronunciation of Proper Names*, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.  
Carr's *Dictionary of Latin Homonyms*, 12mo. 2s. cl.  
Carr's *Manual of Classical Mythology*, 12mo. 4s. 6d. cl.  
Caswall's *America and American Church*, 2nd edit. post 8vo. 7s. cl.  
Chambers's *Edinburgh Course*, Second Year, 18mo. 5s. 6d. cl.  
Children's Magazine, 1851, sq. 2s. hf. bd.  
Christian Pioneer, 1851, 8vo. 4s. cl.  
Crosby's *Builder's Price-Book for 1852*, 8vo. 4s. 6d. cl.  
Church (The) Vol. 5, 1851, 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl.  
Churchman's (The) *Year-Book for 1852*, 12mo. 7s. cl.  
Crystal Palace (The) sq. 12mo. 2s. 6d. cl.  
Darwin, by Elliot Warburton, 3 vols. post 8vo. 12. 11s. 6d. bds.  
De launay's *De launay Court*, 3 vols. post 8vo. 12. 11s. 6d. bds.  
Drummond's (Mrs.) *Glenn Isla*, 12mo. 2s. 6d. cl.  
Forster's (H. R.) *Poems*, 8vo. 12s. cl.  
Harrison's (J. R.) *Medical Aspects of Death*, &c. 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.  
History of a Ship from the Cradle to the Grave, sq. 3s. 6d. cl.  
Hilton's *Edinburgh Course*, Second Year, 18mo. 5s. 6d. cl.  
Linton's (V.) *Builder's Price-Book for 1852*, 12mo. 4s. cl.  
Madden's *Shrines*, &c. of Old and New World, 9 vols. 12. 10s.  
Magazine for the Young, 1851, 8vo. 6d. hf. bd.  
Maynard's (N.) *Poems*, 8vo. 12s. cl.  
Marlborough's *Duke of Life*, by Alison, 2nd edit. enlarged, 12. 10s.  
Oliver & Boyd's *New Edinburgh Almanac for 1852*, 12mo. 4s. 6d. cl.  
Price's (B. M.A.) *The Anglo-Catholic Theory*, 6s. 8vo. 1s. 6d.  
Protestant's *Armour*, or *Believer's Antidote*, &c. 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.  
Rankine's *Abstract of Medical Sciences*, Vol. 14, post 8vo. 6s. 6d. cl.  
Royal Blue Book, 1852, 12mo. 5s. 6d. cl.  
Sharp's *Guides*, &c. 8vo. 12s. cl.  
Sinclair's (C.) *Charlie Seymour*, 18mo. 2s. cl.  
Story (The) of *Nineveh*, sq. 1s. bds.  
Watson's (C.) *History of Prayer*, 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl.  
Wetters's *Royal Red Book*, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.  
Whish's (Rev. J.) *C. Great Exhibition Price Essay*, 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl.  
Whish's (S.) *Literary Miscellany*, 2nd edit. 12mo. 5s. 6d. cl.  
Who's Who in 1852, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl. swd.  
Williams's (Rev. J.) *Gospel Narrative*, 2nd edit. 6s. 8vo. 6d. cl.  
Wyatt's *Industrial Art*, Part 7, 7s. 6d. and Division 1, 3s. 3s. bds.

#### EXPEDITION TO CENTRAL AFRICA.

OFFICIAL and private letters have just been received from Dr. Barth. They were despatched from Kuka on the 21st of August,—only ten days later than the last communications [see *Athen.* No. 1255]; but came with the ordinary caravan, which is the reason for their arriving so much later comparatively.

The travellers, ever on the alert to avail themselves of favourable opportunities for exploring unknown parts of the interior of Africa, were on the point of starting on a highly interesting journey to Borgu,—a mountainous country, lying to the north-east of Lake Tsad, about midway on the road to Egypt, and never yet visited by any European. It is inhabited by the Uelad Soliman,—the well-known powerful Arab tribe who are intimately allied with Bornu. It so happens that the Sultan of Wadai, a large country to the east of Lake Tsad, lately died, and since his decease the whole country has been involved in a civil war. The Uelad Soliman are determined to profit by this, and to invade the country; and under their protection our travellers hope to explore Wadai, comprising the entire eastern side of Lake Tsad.

The projected (it is to be hoped by this time accomplished) journey to Borgu is important in a fourfold light. First, the exploration of this country is in itself interesting;—secondly, Borgu forms a link between the basin of Lake Tsad and that of the Nile, and the observations of competent travellers extended thus far towards the eastern part of Africa would seem to promise important results;—thirdly, it is hoped that from Borgu, and under the protection of its people, Wadai and the celebrated Bahr el Ghazal will be accessible to the travellers, who hitherto, during their stay at Kuka, had seen no prospect of entering that country from the west;—lastly, and this perhaps is the most im-

portant point, the travellers thus escape the dangers of passing the rainy season at Kuka, as was at first intended. Borgu is mountainous,—the atmosphere is said to be very pure,—its numerous valleys are irrigated by perennial rivers, and are extremely fertile in date trees.

"At all events," adds Dr. Barth, "I hope that the pure air, the clear spring water, and the dates and camels' milk of Borgu will prove highly refreshing to us, and will strengthen us for the subsequent portion of our journey."—The Sheikh of Bornu has equipped twenty Arabs expressly for the purpose of conducting the travellers safe to Borgu, and has in the kindest manner recommended them to the chiefs of that country.

Dr. Barth estimates the distance at a month's march, and the whole time for this journey will be at least three months.

After the safe return of the travellers, and their successful exploration of the eastern portion of that remarkable basin of Lake Tsad, they will direct all their energies to the south.

As regards this last stage of their gigantic journey—namely, from Kuka to the shores of the Indian Ocean, which is the most important as well as probably the most difficult portion of it,—Dr. Barth believes, from a mass of information respecting the intervening regions which he has already collected, that a more southerly route, in the direction of Lake Nyassi, will be much more practicable than a straight line to Mombas, on a bearing of about south-east. The information collected respecting the Nyassi line indicates many powerful kingdoms, densely peopled, intersected by numerous rivers, very fertile, and abounding in forests.

Let us pause to consider for a moment the results already gained by the exertions of two travellers who began their work without noise or assumption, and who consider Lake Tsad only as the commencement of their more important labours.

From a small map which I have constructed for the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society, the extent of their explorations and discoveries may be seen at a glance. The routes already performed amount—at a rough estimate—to 3,700 geographical miles,—and the itineraries sent home by Dr. Barth form a network which covers the greater portion of Northern Africa. Nor would it be right to measure their investigations by mere distances; for it must be borne in mind that up to this time—except within the countries in the vicinity of the sea-shore—the entire continent of Africa between Tripoli and the Cape Colony, and between the Nile and the lower course of the Kowari, does not present a single point the position of which had been determined with any degree of accuracy. Our maps of the moon are, in fact, more correct and complete than those of the interior of Africa. The positions of Lyon, Denham and Clapperton are merely approximations to the truth,—particularly their determinations of longitudes. With respect to the astronomical observations, Barth and Overweg are well supplied with instruments, and were practically instructed by Prof. Encke, of the Royal Observatory at Berlin, in their use. None of these observations (save the latitude of Tin-Tellust) have as yet been sent home; but Dr. Overweg informed me in his last letter that the whole of his astronomical, as well as hypsometrical and meteorological, observations will be sent to Europe previously to their leaving Bornu. Dr. Overweg is also the first geologist who has visited those regions. Within only three or four months after their arrival at Kuka the travellers had already successfully navigated Lake Tsad, and penetrated 350 miles to the south; while Denham during his stay of seventeen months at that place failed in accomplishing either of these desiderata.

Next May or June, when the travellers intend to depart from Lake Tsad to the south, they will have devoted two years and a half to their undertaking,—and two years more are considered necessary for accomplishing the second part of their journey. The funds at their command for this journey, of from four to five years, are indeed very inadequate. Having now received the whole of the sum originally granted by the English Government—consisting of a few hundred pounds,—and well nigh exhausted their own private means,—



their chief resources are 200l., which are to be at their disposal only when reaching the shore of the Indian Ocean!

It is to be hoped that the generosity of the English Government will not let these brave fellows drop; and that some succour will be sent out soon enough to reach them before their departure from Lake Tsad. AUGUSTUS PETERMANN. Dec. 31.

#### THE SURGICAL DIPLOMA OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.

WE have received from a Correspondent the following remarks on a recent important reform in the University of Dublin. As usual in matters of reform, the battle of vested interests had to be fought over again. The College of Surgeons in Ireland, we believe, opposed the measure with all their might, and with no little virulence, on the sole ground of their monopoly of the right of granting surgical diplomas.

The value of that higher form of education which is the special end of our Universities to confer, is a fact which has now taken so strong hold of public opinion that it would be but time wasted to attempt to defend it by argument. I speak not merely of pure professional knowledge,—of knowledge which in the future practice of professional life is to be directly utilized, to become the immediate source of professional emolument. I refer also to a yet higher element in the grand idea of University education,—to the imparting of truth in its more abstract forms,—truth which is good in itself and for itself, and under whose influence the intellectual portion of our being can alone find its proper development.

It is an interesting feature of the times in which we live that while science in its applied relations has received a share of public attention greater than at any former period, no unfriendly antagonism is admitted between practical knowledge and abstract truth, and the two are every day becoming more and more intimately interwoven in our University systems. This is as it should be; the great worker must also be the great thinker, and it is only from the mind whose highest faculties have been exercised in the gymnasium of abstract science, that the maximum amount of practical force is to be expected.

Acting on this principle, the University of Dublin has just taken a step which may be considered one of the most important of the many valuable reforms that have of late years occurred within its walls. In establishing a diploma in Surgery, and requiring as a qualification for that diploma a curriculum so extensive as to embrace the higher order of academic studies, the University has broken down for ever the barrier which hitherto continued to separate Surgery from the liberal professions. Every day is declaring how high must be the qualifications of the successful surgical practitioner, while it confirms the intimate union between Surgery and Medicine,—proving how absolutely necessary a knowledge of the one is for the practice of the other, and revealing some new point in which the two inseparably coalesce. There was only wanting some such step as the present to give expression to this great fact, and to confer on Surgery the academic status which will now no longer be deemed the exclusive prerogative of Medicine.

The movement is also one of great moral importance; since whatever tends to raise the intellectual character of a profession exercises a powerful moral influence on its members. Where the intellectual standard ranks low, one of the greatest safeguards against the adoption of unworthy means to obtain professional position and emolument is absent;—where, on the contrary, there is a high standard of intellectual excellence, and where an enlightened education has awakened in the student a love of truth for Truth's own sake, the profession thus distinguished will be loved and honoured by its members, who will feel it in an especial manner their duty and their privilege to defend it against every act which may tend however remotely to lower its dignity or cast a shadow on its reputation.

The true dignity of Surgery had long ago been

acknowledged by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and a degree in Surgery was formerly granted by these bodies. In consequence, however, of deficiency in the practical element of the curriculum, few availed themselves of it; and the conferring of surgical degrees by the great English Universities has since fallen into disuse. With these exceptions Surgery as a profession has up to the present day been excluded from our Universities; and as long as such a state of things existed, not all the great names which have shed imperishable lustre on their profession,—nor any system, no matter how complete, of mere professional education,—nor any college, no matter how celebrated, would remove from the public mind the belief that there is as much of the *trade* as of the *profession* in the vocation of the surgeon.

I have before me the curriculum required as qualification for the new diploma, and just published by order of the Board of Trinity College, Dublin. A better selected course of study could not be proposed. It is thoroughly practical; embracing as large an amount of purely professional education as is demanded by any college in existence, and requiring moreover proficiency in those higher branches of general science and literature which, however little they may on a superficial view appear to bear on professional practice, are in truth its spirit and its life,—diffusing into it a principle of active development, and conferring on it an adaptive power by which alone it can raise itself out of the routine of empiricism, and which the really great surgeon and physician well know how to appreciate. From this important document it would appear that in order to attain the necessary proficiency in general science the student is required to complete one year in Arts, and to have credit besides for attendance on a course of lectures on mechanics. The general academic course of study which is thus made part of the curriculum, while care is taken not to make it so extensive as to interfere unduly with the time demanded by practical studies, is yet full and comprehensive,—embracing classics, logic and mathematical and physical science. Such a system, I repeat, can alone give to Surgery its true place among the liberal professions of the land.

#### "THE WORLD'S HYDROGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION," BY JOHN DAVIS.

YOUR notice (*Ath.* No. 1261) of the sale of this scarce little volume and the manuscript document which accompanied it suggests some remarks in answer, which I should be glad to see in your columns:—especially as this volume and manuscript are lost to the country by their purchase for a public library in the United States.—It is stated that "the arms of Prince Henry are on the vellum covers; and, to add to the attraction of the volume, a folio sheet is inserted, in the autograph of the author, containing 'Motives addressed to Prince Henry, for ordering a project for the discovery of the North Pole terrestrial, the Straights of Anian, into the South Seas and Coasts thereof.' . . . No date is attached." Now, in the first place, there is no reason whatever for supposing the arms to be those of Prince Henry; and all that can be said is, that they are the royal arms of England,—and the size will be found matched in many volumes which have belonged to James I. There is a date attached at the back of the "Motives," and that date is 1610. A presentation copy from the author implies a presentation on publication, or before. Davis's work is dated May 27, 1595, on which day Prince Henry had reached the mature age of one year, four months and ten days:—a most unlikely youth to be the "high person paramount" in this scheme of discovery and colonization, for such it undoubtedly was. Besides, according to all accounts, Davis died about 1602 or 1603, in a voyage to the East Indies; so that, without further evidence it is certain he could not have written the "Motives." But there is also internal, as well as additional, evidence that the "Motives" must have been written at or about the time at which they bear date.

On the 17th of April 1610 the celebrated Hudson sailed on his fourth and fatal voyage, in the *Discovery*; being fitted out at the expense of Sir John Wolstenholme, Sir Dudley Digges, and others,

whose names we find perpetuated by him in the cape and islands to the north-west of Labrador. In this unfortunate voyage Hudson perished, but the vessel returned about September 1611.

The previous voyages of Hudson and others had apparently convinced the then promoters of northern discovery, that to find a passage to India northerly, it must be sought to the north-west. About this time we find incidental proofs that Sir Dudley Digges was deeply interested in the scheme of a north-west passage. Amongst the Birch papers in the British Museum, a portion of which have been published lately under the title of 'The Court and Times of James the First,' there is a letter of John Chamberlain to Sir Dudley Carleton, dated London, March 11, 1611, which contains the following notice of the subject:—"There is a little treatise of the north-west passage, written by Sir Dudley Digges; but I may say *beatus qui intelligit*, especially the first period, which is but a bad beginning to stumble at the threshold. Some of his good friends say he had better have given 500l. than [have] published such a pamphlet." [Vol. I. 139.] In another letter from the same to the same, dated London, December 4, 1611, after the return of Hudson's vessel, and when hope seemed to have dawned on the project from his discoveries, we find the following:—"Sir Henry Wootton's friends give out that he hath refused the employment to Brussels. And now Sir Dudley Digges is in consideration of this north-west passage, wherein he is a great undertaker, will not give him leave to think of anything else, for it possesseth him wholly, and they are preparing ships against the spring, as if there were no doubt or difficulty at all in the weather, and the Prince is become patron and protector of this new discovery." [Vol. I. 153.]

Let us now see whether there is anything in the "Motives" which bears on this matter.—"From out of his Majties Three Kingdomes of England, Scotland and Ireland, theis Adventurers are to be selected, of noble birth descended, or else in high offices, and worthy deserving. Or at the least of Two Thousand Poundes of yearly rennewes. Theis Adventurers in leiw of every hundred pounde adventured shall have One Thousand Acres of land where the plantation shal be seated either on the North or South Sea, with further priviledges and benefites at the discrete wisdom of the high person paramounte *Henric Prince of Wales*." I think, therefore, we shall be justified in inferring that the "Motives" were written for this scheme of Sir Dudley Digges, and probably by him or under his direction; and it is neither more nor less than the Expedition under Sir Thomas Button and Capt. Ingram in the *Resolution* and *Discovery*, which left the Thames early in May 1612. It is singular enough that about this identical voyage of Sir Thomas Button there has always hung much mystery and uncertainty. No document has ever been traced respecting it until the instructions of Prince Henry came to light some years ago, and were perpetuated in a few copies, and since have been reproduced by Mr. Rundall in a volume printed by the Hakluyt Society:—but from what source he has not informed us. I have not leisure now to enter more fully on this subject,—but hope to do so shortly. Meanwhile, I shall be glad to be informed of the discovery of this "little treatise of the North-West Passage by Sir Dudley Digges." It might probably give us the pith and marrow of the scheme which the author of the "Motives" tells us he himself had not given; and some hope might then be entertained that the mystery in which Button's voyage has been hitherto enveloped would be cleared up.

JOHN PETHERAM.

#### FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

##### Monte Casino.

No apology I presume is necessary to the English reader for introducing a modern episode in the history of the Order of St. Benedict. The Benedictines must ever be regarded as the most intelligent and useful of the monastic Orders, whose early missionaries visited Great Britain, bringing with them Christianity and civilization. They laid the foundations of learning and the Fine

Arts; they were the builders of noble monuments, the careful collectors and preservers of mental labour, the painters of pictures, the grinders of colours. The whole history of this order even up to the present day offers a noble example of the spirit of progress. How they have fared in this kingdom during the last three years is the subject of my present letter.

After passing over the same ground which Horace travelled in his celebrated "Journey," I found myself on a late occasion at St. Germano; and, availing myself of an unusually obstinate donkey, proceeded to mount the hill on which the Monastery of Monte Casino is built. On the way, I reflected how as early as 529 Christianity in this lonely mountain superseded Paganism,—how, shortly afterwards, the Saracens and Lombards plundered and destroyed the temple of the new faith,—how the Crusaders and the Normans were equally unceremonious with the shrine of St. Benedict,—and how Urban V. eventually restored the whole structure, the glory of his order. In the eleventh century, Victor III. induced the monks to copy the works of Homer, Horace, Virgil, the Idylls of Theocritus, the Fasti of Ovid, and other classical MSS.,—whilst persons were brought from the East to work the mosaics. I had got thus far in my reflections when a group of boys dressed in the monastic order approached us;—they were lay scholars, healthy, lively, happy looking children. How different from a school of Jesuits I had lately seen near Rome!—I now found myself at the gate of the monastery; and passing through a dark passage reached the court-yard, decorated with statues of saints. I was immediately shown to the Foresteria, a portion of the monastery dedicated to visitors.—Thence, I proceeded to the church; and was delighted with one of the most magnificent interiors I ever beheld,—every altar, every column, the very pavement glittering with rare marbles worked into floral fancies, whilst the roof, painted by Giordano, hung over our heads like a perfect bower of bright colours prised in gold mouldings. I will not, however, here dwell on the artistic treasures of Monte Casino. I had retired again to the Foresteria, and was looking over the Campagna,—an endless plain, dotted with hill and wood, crowned with distant mountains,—when a little group of the brothers entered. I found them intelligent and gentlemanly men, familiar with every great topic of the day, and offering in these respects a strange contrast to the members of most monastic orders. The history of their late persecutions was told with humility truly affecting,—and from them I gathered the following particulars.

When his Neapolitan Majesty granted the constitution, they were inspired with the belief that "they might become more useful members of a Christian community." They had long seen the abuses of the Church; and as the Abbot presided over an extensive district, they were anxious for reforms—reforms which at that period the Pope himself seemed desirous of promoting. Having a printing office in the monastery, they issued a Church Catechism, and distributed a few elementary books on education. The Abbot proposed a rigorous visitation, with a determination to put a stop to the notorious scandals of some of the priests whose conduct had sadly degraded the Church, especially in the small villages. Their labours had only commenced when the Jesuits, the sworn enemies of their order, were restored to power, and political re-action was in full force. From that day the persecution of the Benedictines has continued. The printing office of the Monastery was closed by order of the police, and their works put under seal. Some of the brothers were summoned to Naples, interrogated by the lay authorities, and placed under surveillance. The paid spy denounced them as republicans and enemies of the Church. Father Tosti, the well-known author of a 'History of Monte Casino,' the 'History of the Lombards,' and other well-known works, was a special object of hatred. He fled to the Roman States, where he found protection with the Pope,—and it is only lately that he has succeeded in convincing the Government of his innocence of political offences. Two of the brothers were afterwards

thrown into prison for many months, accused of revolutionary politics,—and after a long investigation have only just now been set at liberty. All have been severely schooled for their opinions, and commanded to return in thought and deed to the old system. So far as I could collect, nothing can exceed their loyalty to the throne;—their troubles, like those of the natives, appear to have originated in their good faith in the reforms promised by Pio Nono and by Ferdinand II. This band of brave and honest men are now scattered and broken up. The two Irish brothers, beloved for their learning and piety, have left the monastery, and I believe Italy, for ever; others have emigrated to sister establishments of the order. A few broken-hearted men alone remain, suspected by the Government and hated by the Jesuits. Father Tosti is near the city of Naples; where he has lately published a work entitled 'La Storia di Abelardo e dei suoi tempi.' The book treats Abelard as scholar and divine,—and is a valuable addition to the history of the controversies of his day.

Wherever I travel in Southern Italy, I see one broad declaration on the face of society. The honest in religion and in politics are the universally persecuted by the powers that be. The bad man finds favour before the thrones of princes,—the worldly man intrigues at the foot of St. Peter:—presenting altogether a picture of society somewhat resembling the times of our own James the Second. The state of popular ignorance which it is desired to keep up, and which I have heard soberly maintained to be essential to the happiness of the kingdom, may be inferred from the following anecdote. I was in a country village near Naples on the day of the recent eclipse; and having burnt some glass to shade my eye, all the peasantry around came to have a peep. Curiosity rather than fear was the prevailing sentiment; as the general idea was, that there was a "row" (literally) between the Sun and Moon,—"*un appiccico fra il sole e la luna.*" Shall we have rain, Signor, said one? as the Sun's disc became gradually darker. "There's the Moon on the top," said another:—whilst as the moon passed over a third exclaimed exultingly, "*Ah, Signor, queste risse (or risse) vengono ogni tanto, ma la luna mai vince.*" In short, the common idea was, that there was a kind of domestic disturbance between the Sun and Moon,—and, as too often happens, sympathy was with the stronger.

H. W.

#### OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

At last, through the persevering efforts of Mr. Bruce, some sort of practical effect has been given to the late concession of the Master of the Rolls in favour of untaxed literary inquiry at the various Record Offices. We have heard many complaints on the subject from men of letters during the months which have elapsed since the boon was recorded in our columns. Even within these few weeks correspondents have informed us that on their making application to the Assistant Keepers the answer returned was—"no instructions." However, on the 4th ult. a set of regulations were drawn up at the Rolls Office and transmitted to Carlton Ride, the Tower, Westminster, and other offices. These regulations state the conditions on which the historical inquirer is allowed the privilege of a free examination of the national records. The first declaration states—"That the individuals seeking to avail themselves of the permission shall address a letter to the Deputy Keeper, stating generally their objects of research, so as to show that the applications are really and *bona fide* for literary purposes, and that the applicant shall also attend the Deputy Keeper personally thereon, and give such further explanation as may be required; and that thereupon the Deputy Keeper shall, if he be satisfied with the statement and explanation, authorize the Assistant Keepers to allow the applicant to inspect such indexes of records, and also such original records, and to make such copies or extracts in pencil required by the applicant as the Deputy Keeper may think advisable." All the rest is official detail,—with the exception of an intimation that the literary inquirer must not hope to receive

any assistance from the officers charged with the custody of the records beyond the production of the documents. Now, although we are glad to see facilities of research given at all, it is impossible for us to express on behalf of the interests that we represent any particular satisfaction with the rules here laid down by the Master of the Rolls. In many cases they will probably operate to render illusory the whole of the concession nominally made. They make a single Deputy Keeper to be judge in the matter. They demand that the inquirer shall give explanations which will always be troublesome—frequently inconvenient—sometimes impossible. How can a literary investigator describe what he wants in the Record Office, unless he had a catalogue of its contents? The legal inquirer mostly knows what he goes thither in search of; but the historian or the antiquary goes to the records in search of the unknown. Again—why should the latter be compelled to dance attendance on the Deputy Keeper? The State Paper Office itself—with all its faults—is open on better terms than these:—there, an application by letter is enough. Unless a man can describe the exact thing of which he is in search, it is not certain from the above that he can demand free permission to inspect:—if he do know, is it likely that in order to save a fee of one shilling he will trouble himself to write to the Deputy Keeper—to wait in person on the Deputy Keeper—and in words and by writing to explain to the Deputy Keeper's satisfaction the nature and purpose of his search? Sir Francis Palgrave, as a man of research himself, should know that such terms cannot be acceptable to his literary brethren. The practice of the British Museum, of the State Paper Office, of the Admiralty, and of other public depositories, even of the Record Offices themselves, is preferable to that imposed in the new regulations. The present Assistant Keepers have the power to remit fees where they know that the inquiries are made in the interests of literature,—and men of known name are seldom subjected to the payment. Why not extend this practice into a rule?

Those who feel an interest in the Crystal Palace will be glad to learn that Her Majesty's Government is taking means to collect information on a variety of important points connected with it prior to the meeting of Parliament. The building being now at the absolute disposal of the contractors, it is for the House of Commons and not for the Royal Commissioners, whose agreement has terminated, to decide upon its fate. To enable the House to consider this question in all its bearings, an inquiry has been intrusted to Lord Seymour, Sir William Cubitt and Dr. Lindley; who have been appointed commissioners for the purpose of obtaining information as to the cost of altering, removing and repairing the building, or portions of it,—the purposes to which it is applicable,—and the probable expense of maintaining it,—and to report thereon.

Among the courtesies going round in commemoration of the Great Exhibition, our contemporaries have announced that a magnificent present of tapestry has recently been made by the French Government to Her Majesty—one of Sevres porcelain, in the form of a coffer, to Lord Granville,—and one of a tea and coffee service to Mr. Wentworth Dilke. The letters of acknowledgment from the two latter parties have, we observe, been published, in the *Journal des Débats*.

There is, it is announced, to be an Exhibition of Works of Industry and Art in the province of Munster in the course of next year. It is to be held in the city of Cork; and has received the patronage of various local notabilities, including the authorities of the Queen's College. It is often difficult to understand our Irish neighbours. Perhaps there was no other part of the British empire that contributed so little to the Great Exhibition as the South of Ireland,—which now proposes to have an Exhibition of its own! It was alleged, that the depressed state of the country prevented the people in that locality from joining in the grand movement,—but we have heard of no increase of prosperity in the interval to account for that sudden energy of the Southern Irish which we could wish had been displayed before. The report of the preparatory meeting enumerates



"seventy or eighty industrial works in the city of Cork—besides sculpture and painting—which would contribute." One speaker declared that "the cabinet work of Cork fully equals any in London, besides being twenty per cent. cheaper." We fear something of this must be set down to the score of Irish boasting,—and if it be true, should have been glad to see proofs in the Crystal Palace. Doubtless, however, some good will come of this movement; which will practically illustrate the state of industry and civilization in the South of Ireland,—supposing that, like many other Irish projects, it should not end in talk.

The "Junius" of the *Quarterly Review* will have been unbagged by the time our paper has gone to press. The phantom is no other than the son of Lord Lyttleton—himself the second Lord Lyttleton; hitherto chiefly remarkable for a vision which is said to have foretold his death on the very day on which he did die. Mr., or Lord Lyttleton has never been called "Junius" before;—so that, if the *Quarterly* is not decisive on the subject—this introduction of another candidate for the 'Letters' will only add to the difficulty of determining who was Junius.

We are informed by a correspondent that the name of the gentleman who has made to the town of Nottingham the munificent offer and donation, for the establishment there of a midland observatory, to which we referred last week [*Athen.* No. 1261] is Mr. Henry Lawson, of Bath. The papers have called him Lawton;—and in the case of a name illustrated by such a project, and which will in all probability be connected with its fulfilment, we think it important that the correction should be made.

The success of the Channel telegraph is already producing its expected results. The company whose wires are already at Holyhead are preparing to lay down a series of lines from that port to Dublin. By way of experiment, as we understand, the parties interested in this mode of communication between the two islands intend to lay in the bed of the Channel a cable of four wires—two of them being reserved for the exclusive use of the Government. The distance is about sixty miles—three times greater than that between Dover and Calais. At Kingston the wires will be attached to those of the Irish trunk railways running to Dublin, Cork, Galway, and other important towns. The completion of these works must operate strongly in favour of the establishment of a packet station at Galway; as, by way of Ireland—the American "overland route"—the telegraphic distance between the great European capitals—Paris, London, Berlin, Vienna, and Washington would be thus reduced from eleven to about seven days!

The Alexandria correspondent of the *Times* states that Mr. Stephenson had proceeded from that city to Cairo by land, in order to inspect the country well, and to come to a final decision with regard to the precise course to be adopted for the Egyptian Railway. "Mr. Stephenson seems to think," he says, "that the best plan will be to carry the railroad over the barrage, where the bridges are in a very forward state; and he is determined to endeavour to have the line in working condition within three years' time."

Dr. Cullen has completed his survey of the Isthmus of Darien. His labours are said to have had important results—having brought to light the fact that a wide tract of entirely low and level land extends from Port Escoces, on the Atlantic coast of the isthmus, to the River Savana. This river, which falls into the Gulf of San Miguel on the Pacific, it has been found, is navigable for sixteen miles and upwards from its mouth for vessels of the greatest draught of water; so that it would only be required to deepen eight miles of its upper course, and to cut nine miles from the river to Port Escoces, over low and level land, in order to form a canal communication between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It is broadly asserted that this projected canal route, from the excellence of the harbours on each side, its shortness, and the low elevation of the country, presents facilities which no route hitherto proposed can offer.—The amount of work to be done being considerably less than that which yet remains to be done on the

Panama railroad.—We need not say that we must await further details and descriptions of the Darien route before we subscribe to terms so little qualified by doubt of any kind.

The prize of 100*l.* offered by Mr. Gilbert, of the London and Westminster Bank, for the best Essay on the Great Exhibition, in connexion with "Practical Banking," has, we are informed, been awarded to Mr. Granville Sharp, accountant in the East of England Bank at Norwich.

Mr. George Stephens, the translator of Tegner's beautiful epic *Frithiof's Saga*, and whose intimate acquaintance with the early literature of Sweden has been shown by the collection of legends of that country which he has edited in conjunction with Hylten-Cavallius, and by the various works superintended by him for the *Svenska Fornskrift-Selskapet*, a sort of Stockholm Camden Society, has removed to Copenhagen in consequence of his having been appointed Professor of the English Language and Literature in the University there. The subject of his first course of lectures—to be delivered in the present month—is, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.—After this we shall be quite prepared to hear of a Danish translation of this masterpiece of the Father of English Poetry, as a companion to the recently published Swedish translation of Shakespeare.

In reference to our remarks on the Time movement, a correspondent, who does not, however, give his name, writes to say that "the town clock of Oxford at Carfax is regulated by railway time; and that Tom at Christ Church has two hands, one giving the railway time as it is at Greenwich,—the other, the time as it actually is fixed by the sun at Oxford."

Letters from St. Petersburg announce the sudden death, at the age of seventy-one, of the well-known Hellenist and archaeologist Dr. Christian Frederik Graef. Dr. Graef was the senior member of the Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg. He had been formerly Professor of Greek Philology at the University of the same city,—and was actually Professor at the Imperial Institute of Pedagogy and Chief Director of the Museums of the Ermitage Palace. He is the author of a great number of works on ancient Greece,—and Russia owes to him editions of the principal amongst the old Greek authors, with notes and commentaries. He published also a description of the principal Greek and Roman antiquities existing in different places of Russia.

We learn that Dr. Neuman, Professor of History in the University of Munich, has completed his long-promised 'History of the English Empire in Asia,' and that it is on the eve of publication.

Lord John Russell has received one deputation, and is about to receive another, from the Educational Societies of Manchester, but the expression of his own views and intentions is reserved until the coming session. Meanwhile it is growing certain that the Municipal Church scheme will meet with a resistance before which failure is almost inevitable. Individuals and organized bodies are dropping from it. Neither of the borough members will consent to bring it before Parliament. The members for the southern division of the county are equally unfavourable to it. The bill, we hear, is now in the act of begging for an introducer in the highways and by-ways of politics. The Catholics of Manchester, as our readers know, repudiate it entirely, and now the Society of Friends have issued a circular letter, in which they state the reason for its rejection by their body.

It is a common saying abroad that no one is so easily deceived as a spy. It is often the case that the censor of an intellectual nation is ignorant or stupid:—and an amusing illustration has just occurred, in respect to the *Journal des Débats*, of the sort of men who are now sitting in secret judgment on the literary labours of France. M. Janin, in his usual article on the theatres, introduced several pungent sentences from Tacitus, which—being in Latin—were overlooked by the censor, but were caught up in the Cuffs, and so, brought down on the paper a threat of suspension from the Elysée. In his notice of 'La Fileuse,' a new piece at the *Gaité*, the feuilletonist remarked—"But (it is a saying of Tacitus) things that are ill gotten bring

nothing but weakness—"nemo unquam imperium flagitio quæsitum bonis artibus exereuit." Further on, M. Janin cited the speech of a senator to Nero:—"I loved thee so long as thou wert worthy the friendship of an honest man; but now that I see in thee a parricide, an actor, and an incendiary—"parricida, histrio, incendiarius," I condemn and hate thee." A third, and as it is said a still more offensive, quotation from the same author occurred in noticing 'Le Vampire' at the *Ambigu Comique*. The allusion is better understood in the setting of the critic—"Deux hommes qui ne doutent de rien, mais que faire, et quel remède à ces excès? Une fois que l'on est dehors de ses limites naturelles, qui peut dire ou on va s'arrêter! 'neque metus ultra, neque pudor est!'" The fourth and last passage, "de coerendo intra limites imperio," was *apropos* of some incident in the same piece.—The English reader may judge of the sort of freedom left to the press of Paris when such an event as the appearance of a theatrical notice in the sedate columns of the *Débats*, interspersed with a few sentences of Latin, made "an extraordinary sensation."—Let us add, that in France the censorship is extended from newspapers to books:—even reprints and new editions must be submitted. We shall not order our next edition of Tacitus from Paris!

We should not overlook in these days of experimental philosophy, that occasions frequently occur when the political and moral sciences are as truly subjected to the test of experiment as was ever any hypothesis in chemistry or in dynamics. At this very moment an extensive series of operations are being brought to a close in the Scotch Highlands and Islands partaking in the most decided manner of the nature of a great experiment—and a perfectly successful one, too—in political economy. It is well known, that the potato famine of 1846 and the subsequent years extended with distressing severity to the remoter districts of Scotland—that great sufferings were endured by the people of the afflicted regions—that a Central Relief Board was established at Edinburgh—and that an organization of succour was set on foot. The Central Board was established on the 5th of February, 1847, and it has been in active operation during the five years that have since elapsed. The administration of the Board was divided between two sections—one at Edinburgh and one at Glasgow. The Edinburgh section have just given an account of their proceedings; and it is drawn up with so much modesty, clearness, and force that the volume in which it appears will meet, it is to be hoped, with a fate somewhat better than that which usually swallows up similar publications. We have read no composition lately, that has struck us more forcibly as a happy illustration of the effects produced by knowledge when applied to the ordinary concerns of life. The Committee found themselves suddenly called on to provide food and employment for a numerous, rude, and scattered population in a difficult and poor country. To have given promiscuous alms would have introduced a reign of pauperism,—work was therefore required in return for relief. But the nature of the country admitted of work of certain kinds only being undertaken. To make roads and harbours on the estates of the landholders without exacting from the landholders some corresponding return, would have been taxing the community for the benefit of a few fortunate private persons. Still, roads and harbours were the great wants of the district. The Committee removed the difficulties by combination. Treaties of co-operation were entered into with the landholders—the people were employed on public works—and an efficient labour test was provided. By this means something like a revolution has been effected in the means of locomotion in the remoter highlands. But that was not all. Means were adopted for stimulating the industry of the "crofters," or small farmers, by giving them leases of their holdings in return for a certain amount of capital expended. Further, successful efforts have been made to introduce a manufacture of hosiery into the highlands for the employment of the female part of the peasantry; taking care, however, that the manufacture shall be a natural, not



a forced one,—that is to say, that it shall depend on the ability of the highland women to compete successfully in the markets of the world as producers of articles of hosiery. It is found that they can do this, and are willing to do it; and that is all that can be desired. The Edinburgh section are now resting from their labours. They have covered themselves with honour, and deserve the thanks of the Nation for what they have accomplished.

**NOW OPEN.**—**SKETCHES AND DRAWINGS**, at the Gallery of the Old Water Colour Society, 5, Pall Mall East, comprising, amongst other important works, **CHOICE SPECIMENS** by Turner, R.A., Mulready, R.A., Roberts, R.A., Stanfield, R.A., Webster, R.A., Landseer, R.A., Hart, R.A., Creswick, R.A., John Martin, K.L., Copley Fielding, Catermole, John Lewis, Frith, A.R.A., Ward, A.R.A., Egg, A.R.A., Leitch, Topham, Hunt, Holland, Lance, Duncan, Hodgson, Goodall, &c. Open daily from Ten till dusk.—Admission, 1s. **SAMUEL STEPNEY**, Sec. Gallery, 5, Pall Mall East.

**PATRON.**—**H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.**  
**ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.**—**LECTURE** by Dr. Hachboffer on the **PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENTIFIC RECREATION.**—**LECTURE** by J. H. Pepper, Esq., on **WARD'S NEW SUBMARINE LAMP.**—**LECTURE** by **GEORGE BARKER, Esq.**, on the **BALLAD MUSIC OF ENGLAND**, illustrated by a Selection from Shakespeare's Songs, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Evenings, at Eight o'clock.—**NUMEROUS PRIZE MODELS, WORKS OF ART, &c.** from the Great Exhibition, explained by Mr. Crisp.—**OPTICAL EFFECTS IN DISSOLVING VIEWS, MICROSCOPE, CHROMATOPHY, &c.**—**DIVER AND DIVING BELLS, &c.**—Admission, 1s.; Schools and Children under ten years of age, Half-price.—Open daily from Eleven till Five, and every evening, except Saturday, from Seven till half-past Ten.

**PATRON.**—**H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.**  
**ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.**—**ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS, HOLDERS OF FAMILY TICKETS, AND SUBSCRIBERS TO THE READING ROOMS, 5, Cavendish Square, are invited to inspect the VALUABLE DEPOSITS from the GREAT EXHIBITION,** just added, to many of which Medals have been awarded.

#### SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

**ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.**—**Dec. 17.**—Sir J. Dorant, in the chair.—Mr. Squiers addressed the meeting 'On the Mexican Hieroglyphics,' as exhibited in the publication of Lord Kingsborough. The MSS. engraved in this splendid work are chiefly rituals—a few only being historical. Of the events referred to, some occurred 800 years B.C., and one reference appears to be an eclipse that happened 900 years B.C.—The dualistic principle runs through the Mexican pantheon; it consists, *i. e.* of male and female divinities, representing the active and passive principles in nature. We find also in this mythology a trinity, corresponding to Brahma, Vishnu, and Siva—the productive, preserving, and destroying powers—in the Indian. Inferior deities represent attributes; each name denoting an attribute: hence, the gods of the Mexicans were far from being so numerous as they appear to be. The supreme divinity had about fifty names, several of which agree in signification with those applied in the Old Testament to Jehovah. He is represented wearing a mask, to intimate that he cannot be looked upon. For each character or attribute there was a different mask, frequently representing animals, particular animals being dedicated to particular deities. The different deities were likewise symbolized by different colours—the water-god by blue; the god of fire by red; the inferior divinities by a dark tint, &c. Peculiar symbols likewise appear as crests, or head-ornaments. The lecturer stated, that the Mexican records unquestionably refer to an Eastern origin of the nation.

Part of a communication 'On the Sites of Ancient Cities in Asia Minor,' by Dr. Moldtmann, of Constantinople, was read by Mr. P. Colquhoun.—It referred chiefly to Skipsis and to Cyzicus. Of the name of the latter a long statement was given, and an historical notice of the city itself.

**INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.**—**Dec. 23.**—Sir W. Cubitt, President, in the chair.—The annual general meeting for the election of Members of Council for the ensuing year, for receiving the Annual Report of the retiring Council, and for distributing the medals and premiums, was held. The Report referred particularly to the late Great Exhibition; many of the competing designs for the building, as well as the suggestions for the guarantee fund, and several important points connected with the classification, &c., having emanated from members of the Institution.—The principal papers which had been read were noticed, and their objects

and merits explained; though it was regretted that they were not so numerous as usual, and in consequence the list of subjects for the ensuing session had been much altered and modified, and the attention of gentlemen known to possess information on any subject had been directed to it, with a pressing request that they would favour the Institution with the results of their experience. The following medals and premiums were awarded:—Telford Medals to Messrs. Clegg, Wyatt, Swinburne, Bruce, Hughes, Struvé, and Newton; and Council Premiums of Books to Messrs. Glynn, Blackwell, Leslie, and Carr. In speaking of the subject of publication, the completion of the Library Catalogue was mentioned; and it was stated, that not only was the utility of the work admitted by the members, but the plan of its formation, and the accuracy of its execution, had been generally approved by the best authorities; this, it was hoped, would lead to the presentation of standard works of reference for the library, which it was desirable to bear in mind was supported entirely by voluntary contributions. Notwithstanding several deceases and resignations, the effective increase in the number of members, which now amounted to seven hundred and sixteen of all classes, was equal to that of any previous year, and far greater than the average.—Memoirs were read of the Marquis of Northampton, Honorary Member, Messrs. W. Brunton, G. S. Dalrymple, J. Farey, W. Mackenzie, and H. Renton, Members; and Col. Jervis, Messrs. S. B. Moody, J. H. Tasker, G. B. Thorneycroft, W. West, and J. Wilson, Associates. The memoirs were succinct records of eventful lives. They noticed feelingly the virtues and talents of Lord Northampton,—the mechanical skill of Mr. Brunton, almost the last of the old school of engineers,—the patient industry and laborious research of Mr. Farey, to whom, with the Lowries, the engravers, was due the merit of improving the style of illustration of the scientific works of the present time,—the gigantic engineering undertakings of Mr. Mackenzie, who, with his coadjutors Mr. Brassey and Mr. John Stephenson, had, since 1833, executed railway and other works to the amount of upwards of seventeen millions sterling, and from a very humble station had risen by his own talent and industry to a high station among his contemporaries,—the brilliant military career of Col. Jervis, and his greater merits in devoting his time and energy to the introduction of the blessings of education among the natives of India,—the practically useful careers of Mr. Thorneycroft and Mr. Wilson, two men who, from the positions of a workman in a forge, and the son of a farmer, rose by industry, talent, and upright conduct, to great wealth and the first rank as eminent iron-masters in Staffordshire and in Scotland, and to serve as models of the most useful class of this country.

The following gentlemen were elected to fill the several offices in the Council for the ensuing year:—James M. Rendel, President; I. K. Brunel, J. Locke, J. Simpson, and R. Stephenson, Vice-Presidents; G. P. Bidder, J. Cubitt, J. E. Errington, J. Fowler, C. H. Gregory, J. Hawkshaw, J. R. McLean, C. May, J. Miller, and J. Scott Russell, Members; and J. G. Appold, and E. L. Betts, Associates.

**INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES.**—**Dec. 21.**—C. Jellicoe, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—One Fellow and nine Associates were elected. A paper was read by Mr. Jellicoe 'On the Inequitable Operation of the Property and Income Tax Enactment as regards Life and other Interests, and on the Principles by which Direct Taxation should be regulated.' The writer showed that under the existing system scarcely any two persons were assessed alike as regarded their actual property or power to contribute; and that it was even possible for one individual to be called on to pay more than thirty times the sum required from another, although their real and absolute property was of precisely the same value. He contended that the contribution required from each individual ought to be *directly* as the means which he has of making it, or as the value of his share in the general wealth or capital of the country; so that after payment

of the tax the members of the whole community would stand in precisely the same financial relation to each other as they did before. To carry such a system into effect, it would of course be necessary to determine the exact value of the property possessed by each person at the time when the assessment was made,—and the author proceeded to show in what manner this might be done. After discussing the methods applicable to freehold and leasehold estates and life interests or annuities, the value of incomes derived from professional and trading pursuits was investigated, and the author's reasons for estimating them severally at seven and at three and one half year's purchase were given.—The paper concluded with some observations as to the amount likely to be raised by a tax levied on such principles, and as to the advantages to be derived from its adoption.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MON.    | Entomological, 8.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| TUES.   | Pathological, 8.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| WED.    | Geological, half-past 8.—'On Reptilian Foot-Tracks and Remains in the Devonian Rocks of Moray,' by Capt. Brickenden and Dr. Mantell.—'On the Oolitic Rocks of the Weymouth and Portland District,' by C. H. Weston, Esq. |
| THURS.  | Society of Arts, 8.—'On the Chemical Principles involved in the Manufactures shown at the Exhibition, as a proof of the Necessity of an Industrial Education,' by Dr. Lyon Playfair, C.B.                                |
| FRIDAY. | Royal Society of Literature, 4.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| SAT.    | Antiquaries, 8.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|         | Royal, half-past 8.—'On Binocular Vision, with Illustrations,' by Prof. Wheatstone (the Bakerian Lecture).                                                                                                               |
|         | Archæological Institute, 4.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|         | Astronomical, 8.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|         | Adelaide, 2.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|         | Botanical, 3p.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|         | Medical, 8.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

#### PHOTOGRAPHY.

In 1844 I sent a description of a new photographic process to the Meeting of the British Association at York, and afterwards to the Royal Irish Academy,—in whose 'Transactions' for 1845 it was published. The materials used are, a weak acid solution, syrup of iodide of iron and nitrate of silver. I remarked in that paper, besides the rapidity with which the photographic effect is produced, that the picture is negative, and that frequently a positive one is developed on the back of the paper. I ascribed this result to an excess of nitrate of silver. I named the process "the *Catalysotype*,"—by which appellation it has found its way into most of the works since published on photography. A correspondence between Mr. F. Talbot and myself is published with the paper, in which he complains because I gave a separate name to my process,—alleging it to be unnecessary and inconvenient to apply to every process a new name, and that mine should be included in the definition "Catalysotype." Of course, I acknowledged his right to dictate on a subject for which he had done so much, but said the paper with the name "Catalysotype" had already been laid before the Academy:—and so the matter rested.

In the commencement of December last, Mr. Talbot sent to the *Athenæum* [see No. 1258] an account of a process, which had been read to the French Academy, for producing pictures by light instantaneously:—the essential ingredients used are a weak acid solution, syrup of iodide of iron, and nitrate of silver,—and its characteristic being that a positive and negative picture are formed at opposite sides of the plate. In fact, it is a slight modification of the "Catalysotype."—the chief difference being that his pictures are more quickly developed by being immersed in a solution of sulphate of iron. Mr. Talbot, however, loses the opportunity of showing how inconvenient new names for every fresh fact are; for, instead of adhering to the word "Catalysotype," he invents another:—he calls his process "Amphitype." Now, although Mr. Talbot has mentioned my name as having been the first to bring the iodide of iron into use as a photographic agent, I feel I have great cause to complain that he does not continue the name of my process. The word "Catalysotype" is now pretty well known,—and his process does not in any essential particular differ from it. The acting materials used are the same, and but slightly varied in proportion; and I have no doubt, from some experiments I have made, that my process exactly as published in 1844 would, if submitted to the bath of sulphate of iron, produce

almost instantaneous effects. The very circumstance from which the name "Amphitype" is derived is noticed by me in my paper.

Mr. Talbot has deservedly a high position in the scientific world,—he can, therefore, afford to leave to others whatever pleasure they fancy to take on account of their discoveries; and I am quite sure no person is more willing than he is to do so,—but he has not reflected that to publish a modification of a process and call it by another name is virtually to substitute the improver for the inventor. I would, therefore, ask Mr. Talbot through the medium of the *Athenæum*, as a matter of justice to me, and in accordance with his own views published in 1845, to call his method of producing instantaneous pictures not by the name of "Amphitype," but, granting it to be a modification of the "Catalysotype," to allow me the merit of the originality of the process.

THOMAS WOODS, M.D.

Lacock Abbey.

Dr. Woods has communicated to me a copy of a letter which he has written to you concerning my new photographic process. This courteous proceeding on his part demands my acknowledgment. I think it might with advantage be generally adopted, as tending both to save time and to remove misapprehensions. I am a friend to free discussion; and therefore can have no objection to the publication of Dr. Woods's letter (although it is founded on a complete mistake). I only request that if you should think fit to publish it, you will accompany it with this reply.

"In my paper which appeared in the *Athenæum* of Dec. 6, I took particular pains to attribute to Dr. Woods the merit, which I consider a great one, of having first introduced the use of iodide of iron in photography. Its component parts, iodine and iron, were already in extensive use among photographers, but they had not been used in combination until that was proposed by Dr. Woods. With this exception—namely, the employment of iodide of iron—there is not the slightest resemblance between the process which I have called Amphitype and that which Dr. Woods has denominated Catalysotype. My pictures are formed upon glass,—those of Dr. Woods are upon paper. My pictures exhibit both a positive and a negative image, not (as Dr. Woods erroneously states in his letter to you) at opposite sides of the plates, but both on the same side,—the one appearing when the other disappears, according to the direction in which the light shines on the glass surface. But the pictures mentioned by Dr. Woods as appearing both positive and negative are of a wholly different nature. They are formed upon paper,—the positive image appearing on one side of the paper, the negative on the other. They have nothing to do with the employment of iodide of iron, as they occur frequently in the common process of photography on paper. In order clearly to explain their nature, I will suppose that a Calotype negative is made, and that after fixing it, it is washed on the back with nitrate of silver, and then exposed in a copying frame with its front surface turned towards the light. Then, it is evident that a positive copy of the picture will be gradually formed upon the back of the paper, and may be afterwards fixed in the usual way. Now, the process which I have here supposed to be purposely executed, sometimes occurs spontaneously, but always in that case much more imperfectly. Indeed, I have never seen a *produced* positive picture formed in this way,—and I have therefore always regarded it as a mere scientific curiosity. I had, however, no idea that Dr. Woods claimed to have discovered it. I have myself known it these ten or eleven years; but if it was really first published by Dr. Woods, he ought to have the credit of it, according to the usual rule. At any rate, it has nothing whatever to do with the process which I have called Amphitype, and described recently in the pages of the *Athenæum*. There are no two processes in Photography more dissimilar. Upon grounds of equal justice my new process might have been claimed by the friends of Daguerre as a mere variation of the Daguerreotype; because, in fact, if a Daguerreotype picture is held in a certain light it changes

from positive to negative. And, indeed, my Amphitype process bears an infinitely greater resemblance to the Daguerreotype than it does to the pictures produced upon paper, which are positive on one side and negative on the other. With respect to my introduction of a new name, such as Amphitype, I justify it on the ground of convenience. There are ten or twelve photographic processes, so different that they require distinctive names,—such as Cyanotype, Chrysotype, &c.,—if we would avoid the use of very inconvenient periphrases. Whoever proposes a new name does so at his own risk. If it is found not to be required, it is sure soon to be forgotten. My definition of "Amphitype" is, "a photographic picture upon glass, appearing alternately positive and negative, according to the direction of the light in which it is held;"—and it comprises at present two varieties,—viz., the process as described by me in the *Athenæum*, and the Collodion process. If Dr. Woods will give an equally brief and clear definition of his Catalysotype, it will then be for photographers to say whether it ought to take rank as a separate genus or species of photography, or whether it should only be classed as a modification. I informed Dr. Woods in 1845 that I thought it only differed from my Calotype process in the use of iodide of iron as an accelerative agent in the production of the negative, the finally resulting or positive copies being identical:—but, of course, I can have no objection to a contrary opinion being expressed by those who may entertain it. I only affirm that the question is now brought forward without necessity; there not being the slightest resemblance in the results obtained by my new process and by that described by Dr. Woods in 1845 as applicable to paper.—I am, &c.

H. F. TALBOT.

In your number for December 20 Mr. Archer communicated a very interesting result which he had obtained on the photographs prepared by the Collodion process through the use of a solution of bichloride of mercury. The pictures thus improved by Mr. Archer are of singular beauty,—and as directing attention to the operation of corrosive sublimate in producing curiously effective results, his communication is of much importance.

My object in now addressing you is, to direct the attention of your readers to the fact, that in 1840 I discovered this very remarkable property, and published it in a memoir in 'The Philosophical Transactions,' entitled 'On the Influence of Iodine in rendering several Argentinic Compounds, spread on Paper, sensitive to Light, and on a new method of producing with greater distinctness the photographic image.' From this memoir, I venture to quote the following passages.—

"I have now to call particular attention to a phenomenon of a most remarkable character, opening a wide field for inquiry. The singular manner in which the mercurial vapour arranges itself on Daguerre's tablets has excited much attention,—and given rise to numerous speculations; but even this appears to me far less curious than the following discovery. If one of the above papers (prepared with the sulphuret and chloride of silver), when removed from mercurial vapour, be dipped into a solution of bichloride of mercury, the drawing disappears; but after a few minutes it is seen, as if by magic, unfolding itself, and gradually becoming far more beautiful and whiter than before. Delicate lines, before invisible or barely seen, are now distinctly marked, and a rare and singular perfection of detail is given to the drawing."

It will be seen from this, that the result is in every respect the same as that obtained by Mr. Archer. This discovery is described also in my 'Researches on Light,' p. 91, ss. 117, 118. The action of the *hyposulphite* of soda (not hyposulphate, as printed) in changing the conditions produced by corrosive sublimate is also noticed by me:—but this peculiarity was described first by Sir John Herschel in the early part of the same year, 1840.

I have no desire to detract from the merits of Mr. Archer,—who is industriously pursuing this interesting subject, and doing much good service to photographic art. I must, however, confess to

the failing of a desire to preserve my claims to those few discoveries which I have made. They are my only reward for much labour and thought.

I am, &c.,

ROBERT HUNT.

MR. THOMAS SPENCER.

THE occasion of a public dinner given to Mr. Thomas Spencer by his friends in Liverpool, on his leaving that place, and the presentation of a testimonial in the shape of a purse containing 200 guineas, furnishes us with an opportunity of removing a doubt which has existed as to the discoverer of the Electrotype. As Mr. Spencer made our pages the medium of some of his earliest communications on this subject, we feel it right that we should give publicity to his statements answering the charges brought forward in the *Mechanic's Magazine* in 1844 to the effect that he had derived his knowledge of the electrotype from a letter of Mr. Jordan's, published in that journal in June 1839. On this point Mr. Spencer in his address at the dinner in question says—

"Nothing could be more absurd than this last charge. In fact, I had never seen the latter until it was thus pointed out; and if I had, I could not have obtained anything practical from it. My claims have been usually admitted as dating from May, 1839, because, at a public meeting of the Polytechnic Society, held on the 9th of that month, a letter was read from me to the Society, which is entered on the books of the Society, and mentions some of the results of the discovery, and also that I had been engaged in perfecting the process for a considerable period. This latter fact was spoken to by several members then present, some of whom had been made acquainted with my experiments at the first meeting of the Society in October previous. Along with this letter a number of voltaic specimens were shown to the meeting, consisting of medals and copper moulds, and specimens of engraving, all of which had been formed by the electrotype. In a conversation which ensued I explained the process to the meeting, and further showed some specimens of silver plating and gilding which I had with me. I had hitherto forborne to give public denial to those statements to which I have referred until this evening. In supporting a claim of this nature, however, there is a higher principle than mere personal vanity. I feel that my honesty of purpose is involved should I fail in supporting that to which in the first instance I laid claim, and which I never suspected would be questioned. I have always felt it to be degrading to science to clog its history with considerations merely personal; yet looking at its past history, I fear that controversies of this character must be pronounced inevitable."

From very careful examination of the question, we have been long convinced that Mr. Thomas Spencer's claim to be the discoverer of the important electro-metallurgical processes is placed beyond dispute.

## FINE ARTS

J. M. W. TURNER, R.A.

Mr. Turner was buried on Tuesday last in St. Paul's Cathedral, by the side, as he desired to be, of his favourite Sir Joshua Reynolds. His grave will add another reason for calling that portion of St. Paul's in which he is buried by the name of 'Painters' Corner.' Some of the best known of our English school of artists sleep within the walls of our metropolitan cathedral:—Reynolds and Lawrence, Fuseli and Barry, Opie and West. Vandyck was buried in old St. Paul's,—and his bones may perhaps be lying now near to Sir Joshua's. It would be only right that the remains of our greatest portrait painter should rest by the side of the artist whom he admired so much.

There seems to be great difficulty in arriving at anything like certainty with respect to Turner's age. Last week we stated him to have died in his seventy-sixth year; and a contemporary who has searched the register of St. Paul's, Covent Garden,



makes his age, on that authority, nearly the same. It is needless to say that a register of baptism is but loose evidence as to the date of a man's birth,—as many reasons may occasion an interval between the one event and the other. The age inscribed on Turner's coffin is, we are informed, seventy-nine:—but we are assured that he was some years older. Mr. Andrew Wilson, the painter of Edinburgh, used to relate that he and Turner were born in the same year,—and that would make him at least eighty-one.

The rumours which have long been current respecting Turner's enormous wealth have, it seems, greatly overstated the case. His property, exclusive of his pictures, does not exceed 100,000*l.*:—and the whole of this, we believe, he has left to found almshouses for the benefit of unfortunate and meritorious artists. His pictures he has bequeathed to the nation,—on the express condition that within a given time a suitable place shall be provided for their deposit and exhibition. This is a wise proviso.—It is amusingly characteristic of the mental habits of the man that to each of his executors he has left a legacy of 1*l.* 1*9s.* 6*d.*:—the fractional character of the sum being a prudent precaution for saving the legacy duty.

We mentioned last week that Mr. Turner died in an obscure lodging in Chelsea—but we purposely omitted to state that he was living at Chelsea under an assumed name. The story is as follows.—He loved retirement, and entertained a peculiar dislike to having his lodging known—sharing with all his immense wealth the feeling of the poorest bankrupt. He saw lodgings to his liking, asked the price, found them cheap,—and that was quite as much to his liking. But the landlady wanted a reference—"I will buy your house outright, my good woman," was the reply somewhat angrily. Then, an agreement was wanted—met by an exhibition of bank notes and sovereigns and an offer to pay in advance:—an offer which proved of course perfectly satisfactory. The artist's difficulties were not, however, yet over. The landlady wanted her lodger's name—"in case any gentlemen should call." This was a worse dilemma. "Name, name," he muttered to himself in his usual gruff manner, "What is your name?"—"My name is Mrs. Brook."—"O," was the reply, "then I am Mr. Brook"—and as a "Mr. Brook" Turner died at Chelsea.

The only artistic property belonging to Mr. Turner likely to pass under the hammer of the auctioneer, is his collection of "proofs" and certain copper and steel plates from his own works. His invaluable bargain with printers and engravers was, that he should have fifty proofs of every plate—and he went even so far with some as to demand that the "touched" proofs should be returned to him. Certain engravers, however, properly insisting on the custom of their craft not to return proofs, continued to retain them in spite of every threat which Turner could make that the artists who insisted on keeping his touched proofs should never be employed again on engravings from his works. Some gave in; and the "touched" proofs—if sold—will, it is said, realize very high prices.

We have received a letter from Mr. Thomas Calvert Girtin, the son of the eminent water-colour painter who was, as we stated last week, one of the great objects of Turner's admiration,—pointing out an error of description in reference to his father which, though not made by us, he desires, in preference, to correct by means of our circulation. "In connexion," he says, "with the early studies of Turner has been mentioned the name of the venerable Girtin. Now, as the latter artist, generally considered to have been the founder of the modern water-colour school of painting, died at the premature age of twenty-seven, he can hardly be designated as venerable. Indeed, I believe the ages of the two were nearly alike; and that they were associated together in friendly rivalry as young men pursuing a common branch of the art under the hospitable roof and superintendence of Dr. Monro, is well known. That Girtin, having been the first to break through the trammels of the style of Dayes, and to eschew the wash and feeble effects of the school of Paul Sandby and Michael Angelo Rooker,

may have been imitated and enlarged upon by his fellow student, is not only probable but what must have arisen from such a masterly genius as Turner; but to speak of a young artist at that time hardly twenty years old as venerable, and who did not even live to pass through the season of youth, but whom the grave received three years before he was thirty, is surely an error which, in speaking of the relative merits of contemporary artists and the attitude in which the works of one stand in reference to those of the other, deserves correction. They were, unquestionably, both great men in Art; and though an accumulation of honourable years multiplied the productions, the skill, and the fame of him now departed from us, and whose large experience and poetic mind shed a lustre over his art which has been the lot of few, if any, to attain,—yet, to what height of excellence Girtin might have soared, to what enlarged conceptions his mind might have given birth, had he, too, been blessed with length of days, the numerous and important works which in his brief career he has left to perpetuate his fame sufficiently testify.—To any lover of that delightful branch of the art, water-colour painting, I can exhibit a drawing by Turner as well as several of Girtin's produced at, or about the same period of time,—i. e. at the beginning of or immediately preceding the present century,—the whole of which have never been out of the possession of my family since the untimely death of my father in 1802:—a bereavement, it is unnecessary to say, that his only son and child cannot, for many reasons, sufficiently deplore."

By the way, we should not have omitted in our enumeration of the leading engravers who have been employed on the works of Turner the name of Mr. J. T. Wilmore.

We may mention, too, as an opportune fact that two very fine line engravings of subjects from the pencil of Turner have just been published by Mr. Gambart. They are from the respective gravers of Mr. Wilmore and Mr. Wallis,—and represent severally 'Dover from the Sea' and 'Hastings from the Sea.' The names in each case suggest the elements which Turner would employ. "Dover" has the Castle Height for its background,—fishing-boats making for the harbour and a steamer preparing to go out. In the view of "Hastings," peopled fishing-boats are rocking in the motion of a ground swell. The life of the nature chosen is marvellously represented in both; and the respective engravers have rendered it with a fineness of appreciation and of touch which will help to make the fortuitous moment of publication a profitable accident.

**FINE-ART GOSSIP.**—The anonymous marble bust by Roubiliac bought last year by Messrs. P. & D. Colnaghi at the rooms of Messrs. Sotheby & Wilkinson has been sold by Messrs. Colnaghi to Mr. Francis Roubiliac Conder, the great-grandson of the sculptor. Mr. Conder believes that the bust represents the great sculptor; and a strong likeness may be traced, it is said, between the bust and an acknowledged portrait of the sculptor in Mr. Conder's possession. The bust, it is further urged, is very like some of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the sculptor. Our readers will remember that we ventured at the time of sale to think that the bust was meant for Martin Ffolkes: and though we have since seen prints and pictures which lessen our belief in the guess that we then made,—yet we must confess, after a careful comparison of the bust with the print of Roubiliac after Carpentier's portrait, that we are not full believers in the accuracy of Mr. Conder's guess about his great-grandfather.—The bust, we may repeat, is an admirable specimen of Roubiliac's art.

The monster full-length miniature of Lady Ellesmere so finely painted by Mr. Thorburn has just been engraved by Mr. Atkinson in his best style. The plate has been privately executed for the Earl of Ellesmere, and the impressions taken confined to one hundred. The head is very exquisitely engraved. His Lordship has very considerably presented one of the finest impressions to the Print Room of the British Museum.

The Committee of the Montrose Peel Monument

have, it is said, approved of a design by Mr. Ritchie, of Edinburgh,—and agreed to his estimate for its execution, with some trifling alterations. The monument is to consist of a freestone statue, 9 feet high, with a pedestal about 12 feet high. The middle of the High Street is recommended as the site.

The Secretary to the School of Design at Cork, Mr. Shaw Duncombe, recently read an essay at the Cork Literary Society on the life of Barry, the painter, a native of that city. It appears that Cork has done nothing hitherto for the memory of Barry, beyond often boasting of his birth,—and Mr. Duncombe thus draws attention to this neglect of the painter's claims in his native place. It was stated in the discussion which followed the reading of Mr. Duncombe's essay, that a gentleman in London possesses a quantity of Barry's letters. We surmise that the best of them have long since been printed;—however, we do not speak with confidence on the point.

A Dresden correspondent of Kuhn's *Europa* states that a number of humorous drawings, sketched by the pencil of Schiller, and accompanied by descriptions in his own hand, have been found in the possession of a Swabian family, with whom the great poet became acquainted during his residence at Loschwitz.

When Charles the Twelfth, King of Sweden, was killed by a ball directed against him from the fortress of Friedrichstadt, to which he had laid siege, a simple column of marble, bearing no other inscription than the monarch's name and the date of his death, was raised to mark the spot. This column having gradually given way before the piece-meal depredations of relic-loving tourists until not a fragment is left,—the Norwegian Government has determined that a worthier monument shall occupy its place; and having submitted the matter to public subscription, three-fourths of the sum needed was offered in less than two days. The work is to be the subject of competition.—We mention this for the sake of our archaeological tourists who may be going North. Their hammers will again be found useful—after the delay necessary to the completion of the work.

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

**MUSICAL UNION, 1852.**—The Meetings of the present Season will commence on TUESDAY after Easter week, April 20. The Record of 1851 has been sent to Members. Parties of three or more wishing to subscribe to the WINTER EVENINGS—on commence on THURSDAY, the 20th—can secure places, on early application to the Director. These Entertainments will be conducted in the same social spirit as the Musical Union, with a variety of Instrumental Music, performed by the best Artists. Prospectuses to be had of Cramer & Co., and all principal Music-sellers. J. L. L. A. Director.

**MR. EMANUEL AGUILAR** begs to announce that he will give THREE SOIRÉES CLASSIQUES at the Beethoven Rooms, 37, Queen Anne Street, on TUESDAY EVENINGS, January 13, 27, and February 10. The Instrumental part will consist exclusively of the Works of Beethoven. Mr. Aguilar will on each Evening perform on the Piano-forte three of the most celebrated Sonatas of that great Master. Violin, Herr J. J. Schuler, and Herr Lütgen. Single Tickets, 3*s.* 6*d.* Subscription to the Series, or Tickets to admit Three, 2*1s.* to be had of Mr. Aguilar, 68, Upper Norton Street, and at all the Music Publishers.

**RECITATIONS MUSICALES.**—MR. WM. BINFIELD'S RECITATION OF CHAMBER MUSIC, Solo to Setette; *Chap-d'œuvre* of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Weber, Hummel, Schubert, Moscheles, Heller, Herz, Kubau, &c. New Beethoven Rooms, 37, Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square, TUESDAY EVENING, February 3, at Eight o'clock. Vocalists, Mdlle. Blandine, and M. Williams. Violin, Herr J. J. Schuler, and M. Wagner, and L. Binfield, Messrs. W. R. Henry and A. Binfield. Tickets, 4*s.*; Double, 5*s.*; Reserved Seats, 7*s.*

**LONDON THURSDAY CONCERTS, EXETER HALL.**—THE SECOND of the Series will take place NEXT THURSDAY, January 8, commencing at Eight o'clock, upon which occasion the most eminent Artists will appear, supported by the GRAND MADRIGAL CHORUS, consisting of nearly Sixty Professional Singers, and which elicited such enthusiastic applause at the First Concert.—Tickets, 1*s.* and 2*s.*; Stalls (numbered), 4*s.*—Full Programmes at the Music-sellers.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

*Sechs Gesänge für eine Singstimme, mit Begleitung des Piano-forte—Six Songs for a Single Voice, with Accompaniment of the Piano-forte.* By Ign. Moscheles. Op. 119.—Every pianoforte student will understand the value of the words "accompaniment" in the above title. The amount of idea, ingenious fancy, and solid constructive science contained in the instrumental compositions of M. Moscheles is certain to preserve them in respect and admiration,—though from time to time slighter or more fascinating composers may thrust him aside. These six Songs, which might be styled as "for the



pianoforte, with accompaniment of the voice," are among his best fancied and most ingenious works. As songs, however, they appeal to German rather than to English sympathies. In some cases the verse is followed by the music with that over-exquisite closeness which can hardly be secured without the composition assuming an air of restriction—not to say pedantry—at variance with the ease which is the charm of vocal music. In all, the character is excellent. 'Die Zigeunerin,' for instance, is as *allegro agitato* in the true, wild, oriental, gipsy spirit. 'Der Liebenswürdigen' is an *andantino*, little less original and marked in its form. Both will require so much attention from the player as almost to preclude the possibility of his or her being also the singer. 'Strenghe,' the simplest of the series, is our favourite because it is the simplest:—a naïf and attractive little song.—The whole half-dozen merit a welcome among select musicians, though they may hardly hope—and indeed were, probably, never meant—to attract the more general song-loving public.

*Forty-eight Melodies for Youth, for Two, Three or Four Voices.* Composed by Silcher; adapted to English Words, &c. by Francis L. Soper.—This is one of the best publications of its kind which have been issued. Herr Silcher was already known as an agreeable composer of German Part-songs; but the collection before us gives satisfactory proof that he can write worthily for children as well as for adults, and produce such melodies as may not only satisfy the ear but aid also in the cultivation of the taste. The English part of the work, too, is well done.—"Teachers," says Mr. Soper, in his sensible preface—

"cannot be too deeply impressed with the importance of selecting for children good music,—such music as will cultivate a taste for the compositions of the great masters, and prepare them to appreciate their beauties. It is altogether a wrong notion, that, for the sake of simplicity, recourse must be had to the light and popular music of the day: many of the most beautiful melodies of Haydn, Handel, Mozart, and Beethoven, being extremely simple, and quite within the comprehension of children. \* \* In selecting the words a purely devotional strain has been avoided, except where the character of the music absolutely requires it, such words being best confined to devotional exercises. Words of a didactic character, such as the multiplication table, the names of the geometrical solids, &c. &c., have not been admitted, because they are quite inappropriate to music; and those subjects are much better taught another way."

The rarity of such common sense as the above will suggest itself to most persons who have looked over those foolish pieces of patched namby-pamby which are so largely circulated as elementary music-books for the young. In no art is sound teaching from the "very earliest A" more strongly demanded than in Music. In none has empiricism been at once so loud and so widely accepted;—therefore, such a book as this deserves a more than ordinarily warm welcome.

*The Merman*, by Alfred Tennyson—*The Rose and the Gawnlet*, by John Sterling. Composed by Joseph A. Duggan.—These are two Songs of more than ordinary pretension, and more than ordinary merit:—belonging to the class *scena* rather than being ballad, melody, or *caratina*. That the want of some such concert-music has always been felt, may be proved by Calcott's settings of Campbell's verse,—by the weaker and less individual *scenas* of Percy (a name hardly known to the amateurs of this generation, though often found in old music books)—and, at a later period, by Dr. Whitfield Clarke's flimsy, yet not altogether valueless, settings of passages from 'Lalla Rookh.' As we approach our own time, we find Knapton's 'There be none of Beauty's daughters,' and Barnett's setting of 'Sir John Moore's Burial,' among other efforts in the same direction:—not to forget 'Napoleon's Midnight Review,' which Mr. John Parry, when a sentimental singer, used to sing at our Festivals. It seems, however, to be the attribute of this form of composition to pass out of favour; whereas the less pretending, and it might have been thought more ephemeral, tunes of a Cary, an Arne, a Dibdin, a Hook, and a Bishop are from time to time revived:—whence would appear, that to produce a work of permanent value in this form is one of the hardest musical tasks. The above few words of retrospect are sufficient to make clear the import of our qualification so far as Mr.

Duggan is concerned. The 'Merman' is gracefully, fantastically, and expressively conceived: such weak portions as it contains being those where the change of mood, or varieties of imagery, have bewildered rather than excited the imagination of the musician. Inasmuch as Tennyson ranks higher as a poet than Sterling, it is to Mr. Duggan's credit that 'The Merman' is by much the better song of the two.

Mr. Percival and Mr. Bolingbroke Cooper have published each *Three Songs* for voice and piano:—those by the latter gentleman being the happier, because the more distinct in their melodies.—Mr. C. E. Stephens has dedicated to the Sheffield Apollo Glee Society *The Forest-Hunters' Glee*,—a part song, in which the German style is adopted.—What does the Yorkshireman know of *Yagers*? We cannot, as has been said a hundred times, consider such efforts on the part of an author to denationalize himself either welcome or wise. In the case of the Part Song they are singularly abortive: since no magic will make the English alto replace the German first tenor,—the fire and force of which are essential to produce an effect in songs of the pattern copied by Mr. Stephens.

*Studies for the Pianoforte, &c.* By Lindsay Sloper. In Two Books.—It not seldom happens that single movements are called "Studies" merely because they contain neither character nor passage for pupil to study,—are not pretty enough to be entitled "Notturmo," "Romance" or "Serenade,"—are too dry to be styled "Fantasia,"—and are too unmelodious to merit the title of a "song without words."—the name which should imply the greatest selectness, being thus most gratuitously abused.—These "Studies," however, by Mr. Sloper, really demand and deserve the title prefixed to them. They are full of character; though it is the character which claims to be mastered, rather than which charms after it is mastered. The ideas are ideas—distinct, nervous and substantial thoughts, which will set the student thinking,—showing that increased freedom in ordinance and in treatment which satisfies us that Mr. Sloper is making progress by practice in writing. He would do well to consider geniality of melody as a point in which he is open to improvement; since we are confident that fancy may be nurtured, enriched, deepened, and varied, if not absolutely created, by habitual exercise joined with close and almost mistrustful scrutiny.—As calling for firmness and equality of finger, these exercises are generally excellent. They afford, too, a provision for expression largely precluded by the fashionable form of pianoforte writing introduced by MM. Thalberg and Liszt—that in which the melody and the accompaniment are simultaneously carried on and divided and in which the poor sturdy thumb is expected to sing and to slide from note to note. They are not, in the least, copied after Mendelssohn.—They may be found by some a little dry: by others a little difficult, as requiring close attention.—They must be confessed by all to be good: because they are really what they represent themselves to be—to wit, Studies.

DRURY LANE.—On Boxing Night, as we have already announced, this theatre opened under the new management:—when Mr. Bunn put the audience in good humour by a characteristic and appropriate address, in which he promised all things expedient and desirable if supplied with means by those whom he addressed. The play for the occasion was 'Fazio,'—and Miss Glyn made her first appearance before a Drury Lane audience in her great character of Bianca. With Miss Glyn's impersonation of this part our readers are, through our columns, so familiar, that it would be a work of mere repetition to dwell on its features here. Suffice it to say, that on this occasion her acting suffered from that extreme nervousness against which no amount of practice seems able to protect her first appearances. Contrary to the wont of Boxing Night, Miss Glyn had an audience on which she may not have reckoned. The gallery had abdicated, as if in homage, its peculiar privilege of having the house to itself; and whether or not the unexpected appeal made to her by finding a calm when she expected to play in a tempest had

shaken her nerves,—certain it is, that she acted at manifest disadvantage through all her scenes, and fairly collapsed at the close.—Her reception was, however, of the warmest kind.

On Saturday, 'The Belle's Stratagem' was performed, for the purpose of introducing Miss Fitzpatrick to these boards, in the character of *Letitia Hardy*. Her reception was cold at first; but as the play proceeded the audience recognized her merits,—and in her scene with *Dorincourt* (Mr. Anderson) warmed into applause. Her song in particular was well received. At the conclusion of the play she was led forward by Mr. Belton.—'The Young Couple' succeeded, supported by the Bateman children;—and then came the new Pantomime:—with which half the town is familiar enough by this time to make any description here matter of supererogation.

On Wednesday, the tragedy of 'Macbeth' was performed:—Miss Glyn, of course, playing *Lady Macbeth*. The part, with the exception of the sleep-walking scene, is not one of Miss Glyn's best,—and the selection of it at this early period of her appearances was injudicious. Miss Glyn's removal to this stage is an event which we have watched—and shall continue to watch—with great interest; and that she may have the full benefit of the experiment, we hope she may be permitted to play the round of her indisputably great characters.—Mr. Anderson's *Macbeth* was picturesque, but his delivery painfully monotonous. Mr. Belton as *Macduff* deserves a notice. He gave signs of intelligence and power which suggest the expectation of a better performance, with more practice, than his presentment of the part can yet deserve to be called. He shared, however, with Miss Glyn and Mr. Anderson the honours of the call before the curtain.

PRINCESS'S.—On Tuesday, Mr. C. Kean appeared in the part of *Sir Edward Mortimer*, in 'The Iron Chest,'—and evinced in it that singular aptitude for the character which distinguished his father's delineations. In his acting there are unmistakable marks of true genius.—The pantomime at this house has been successful:—and that very success, as in other cases, forms a ground for our dispensation from criticism.

SADLER'S WELLS.—The house here has been crowded to excess. The pantomime has had a triumph with the holiday-folk.—Miss Cooper has returned to this theatre: and on Friday week, she performed *Pauline*, in 'The Lady of Lyons,'—and on Monday appeared as *Parthenia*, in the charming play of 'Ingomar.'

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—Her Majesty,—with whom it appears to be habitual to command a musical performance of some importance on New Year's Day,—has opened 1852 with Mendelssohn's music to the 'Oedipus.'—On the same day, at the grand ceremonial got up in *Notre Dame de Paris* to signalize the re-election of the President, was revived some of Lesueur's church-music, written for the coronation of the original Napoleon.

Mr. Hullah's monthly concerts this year will be four in number; to be held on the third Wednesday of their respective months. The first will be given on the 21st inst. "The following *entire works*," says the programme, "will be performed in the course of the season for the first time at these concerts:—Handel's *Cantata*, 'Alexander's Feast'; Leslie's Festival Anthem, 'Let God arise'; a new *Cantata*, 'Leonora,' by Mr. Macfarren; and Mendelssohn's Ninety-fifth Psalm."

We ought among the last musical things of 1851 to have announced the election of Miss Rosetta Vinning (from the name, it may be presumed, a relation of the "Infant Sappho"), and Mr. J. Barnett, to king's scholarships in our Royal Academy of Music.

Mlle. Cruvelli's success seems of the two less in Paris this season than it was in London, and to be already on the wane in the French capital. She has attempted the part of *Maria* in 'La Figlia del Reggimento,' and failed in it. If she be wise enough to profit by her failures, Mlle.

Cravelli may still achieve a great success. At the performance in question Herr Eckert conducted the orchestra in place of Herr Hiller, whose term of service—if this substitution betokens its end—has proved shorter than even some of us anticipated it might be.

On grounds of a similar nature—the substantiation of opinions in which for a while we stood alone—we must record that M. Gounod's 'Sapho' has been again produced at the *Grand Opéra*. The drama is now shorn of all the patriotic 'mischief' that it contained—by the retrenchment of the entire part of *Aleus*—and as much of the intrigue as set forth the conspiracy.—How M. Augier's *libretto* fares under such Presidential care we cannot guess:—but the music of the opera, in particular its exquisite third act, is now firmly established with the Parisian connoisseurs.

The appearance of Madame Tedesco as *Fides* in 'Le Prophète' seems not to have been successful.—It is said that the rate of taxation of the Parisian theatres, in aid of the poor, may be reduced from eleven to three per cent.—Signor Verdi is now in Paris.—Thither, too, has come Signor Sarmiento, one of the minor Italian *maestri*, with the hope of producing some of his operas.—New operas by MM. Cadeaux, Bazin, and Grisar are said to have been accepted at the *Opéra Comique*.

Herr Dehn, curator of the musical portion of the Royal Library at Berlin, who has been deputed by his government to examine into the stores of classical music in Prussia, has been, apparently, very successful in his researches in Silesia:—having there discovered, say the journals, "upwards of fourteen hundred unknown compositions, dating as far back as the thirteenth century."—A young Swedish lady—Mdlle. Ebeling, whom we have more than once mentioned as a possible rival to Mdlle. Jenny Lind—died a few days since at Berlin, on the very eve of her first appearance on the stage.—Dr. Rungenhagen, too, is dead, in the same capital, at an advanced age. He will be chiefly remembered in the musical world, as having occupied the position so long and honourably held by Zelter, namely, the conductorship of the *Sing-Academie*—since his powers were, at best, mediocre.—Mdlle. Von Stranz, whom we some time ago mentioned as singing with success at the Leipzig concerts, has made her appearance on the Frankfurt stage as *Rosina* in 'Il Barbiere' and in spite of her coming immediately after Madame Sontag, is said to have produced a most favourable impression.—We may mention two opera-composers whose names are new to us—Herr Struppe, whose 'Sea Beggars' has been given at Prague, and Herr Unger, whose 'Tiberius Gracchus' is in preparation at Weimar.—A new Symphony by Lachner, recently produced at Vienna by the Philharmonic Society of Austria, is the last item in our New Year's paragraph of German musical gains and losses.

#### MISCELLANEA

**The New Record Repository.**—From the last report of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, just printed, it appears that the new Record Repository now being built in Rolls Gardens, Fetter Lane, will cost 45,000*l*. It will contain 331,496 cubic feet, of which 124,311 cubic feet will be required for records and the remainder for light, air, &c.

**Professor Longfellow's 'Golden Legend.'**—Sir,—I think I may interest your readers who have had their attention called to Professor Longfellow's 'Golden Legend' by the review of it in your columns, to have some further particulars of the poem on which it is founded,—which, as your Correspondent, Mr. Oxenford, has already told you, is one written, in the thirteenth century, by Hartmann von der Aue, entitled 'Der Arme Heinrich.' In the main plot of the poem Mr. Longfellow has kept almost entirely to the original, and many of his passages are paraphrases; but the character of Lucifer, and all the episodes of the journey to Salerno, are his own creations. By his introduction of Lucifer, however, and his accommodating the whole to our modern notions of right and wrong, which are constantly brought out in strong relief, he has entirely altered the moral colouring of the story;—which has occasioned the most of interest in the character of the hero of which you justly complain. The whole moral tone of his poem is morbid, compared with the simple, clear, open-eyed faith of the original. The hero of Hartmann is not the self-conscious, cowardly, fine gentleman prince of Longfellow; but a wealthy and powerful baron, endowed with "all manner of virtue—a mirror of the world's joy, a refuge of the needy,

a bridge of good counsel, handsome, and withal wise." To teach him, however, the vanity of life and earthly joys, he is struck with leprosy, like Job,—from whose history Hartmann has evidently taken the leading idea of the tale. He thus becomes an outcast, despised of all:—but nothing is said of any curse pronounced by the Church. The reader's interest in "the poor Henry," who, after his fruitless visit to Salerno resigns himself to the will of God, and devotes his wealth to good works, "so that he is renowned and pitied through all the land," is excited in the highest degree before the "little maid" appears on the scene. Her character is faithfully rendered by Longfellow; though it seems to me, I confess, a pity to have altered her age from eight to fourteen. Longfellow makes her a woman. In the original, the mixture of her exquisite simplicity and childishness with deep earnestness and elevated thought is at once so extraordinary and so life-like, that the reader entirely sympathizes with her parents when they begin to believe that the Holy Ghost speaks by her mouth, as he inspired St. Nicholas in the creed. Longfellow's plot, too, strikes one as more unnatural than it needed to be, from his almost leaving out of sight one of the most characteristic features of the time,—namely, the peculiar relations subsisting between the feudal lord and his peasantry. Henry's life is felt in the old poem to be infinitely important to all his dependents, who can never hope for such another master; and the fear that when he dies they will all be reduced to beggary, is an argument of which the "little maid" makes great use in her pleadings with her parents. She reminds them, that if she lives they will lose her, for she shall be married; but if their lord dies, they will lose their all, and she will lead a life worse than death. Henry is with difficulty persuaded to accept her sacrifice,—but it is because he shrinks from the misery to her and her parents. He, too, recognizes the value of his own life, and there is no hesitation and questioning about the right and wrong. The journey is passed over very slightly; nothing hardly being noticed but the preparation in the way of the grand silken and velvet dresses given to the "little maid," such as she never had before. Arrived at Salerno, the old physician takes her aside, believing that her master has induced her by threats to offer herself to death, and warns her that if she wavers only a hair's breadth even at the last she will have lost her life and yet done nothing for them. She replies, "Yes, she has one fear, that he will never have courage to do his part of the work," he has the heart of a hare, and she is a woman and has all the courage." On this, he prepares for his work; but when, having undressed and bound her, he whets his long broad knife that "he may give her a softer death," Henry hears the sound, and in a moment his whole soul revolts at the sacrifice. He knocks against the door, the old physician says he "has other business in hand just now, and cannot attend to him." Henry peeps in through a chink in the wall, sees how beautiful the "little maid" looks, breaks into the room, and stops the physician. She loads him with reproaches for having snatched her from her heavenly crown,—says all she has heard of his bravery is a lie, and if he cannot bear to look on death he should not have peeped through the wall. Henry, of course, takes his own way, though "the good maid cries and afflicts herself well nigh to death;" but Christ, to show his approbation of her work of love, delivers both from their distress, by making the sick man whole. The catastrophe is much more spun out than in Longfellow's poem, and in this respect does not conform to modern rules of composition; but this is atoned for by the greater ease with which it is brought about, and the naïve picture which it affords of the manners of the age. Henry conducts his preserver to her parents; and then returns to his castle, where all his acquaintances, who have forsaken him during his calamity, come to wish him joy. They next begin to advise him to marry, as was not unnatural; and he thereupon sends for all his friends and retainers to take their counsel on the subject. They overwhelm him with advice and suggestions, till at last, putting his arm round the "little maid," he tells them how he owes his life to her, and that the whole wish of his heart is to take her for his wife; but if that may not be, he will live without one. His choice is voted by acclamation; and as there are priests in plenty, they are married on the spot.—The bright, earnest and healthy tone of the religion in this poem is not its least remarkable feature. To its men and women, heaven is as real as earth, and God as near to their hearts as their loving friends. Though written so early, it is almost entirely untinged with anything distinctively Romish. There is no mention of prayers to the saints or the Virgin,—of purity of soul as arising from confession and absolution, or of the to whom reference is made in all things, and Christ who heals Henry without any introduction of angels or relics. In fact, the whole might have been written by a pious Protestant.—To give an idea of the quaint beauty and picturesque quality of the tale by extracts would take up too much of your space; but it is to be wished that some one competent to the task should translate into English this exquisite poem, which is equally valuable as a work of art and as an illustration of the age in which it was produced. It has been already translated into modern German by Simrock,—I do not know with what success. S. W.

London, Dec. 24.

**Chelsea New Suspension Bridge.**—According to the late report of Woods and Forests, the Commissioners of Public Works are to advance 120,000*l*. for the new suspension bridge and Thames embankment at Chelsea.

**Remarkable Celestial Arch.**—At about half-past 9 P.M. of the 29th of December 1851, I noticed a lucid arch stretching across the heavens. It was observed about four degrees eastward of the planet Mars, passing very near the brilliant star Capella, and through the stars alpha, beta, and gamma Arietis. Its breadth was between two and three degrees, and it was slowly moving towards the south. At first I sus-

pected it to be auroral; but on a closer inspection I apprehended it to have been formed of very thin masses of the cloud known by meteorologists as cirro-stratus, the moon shining through a thin haze at the time. If this arch should be found to be composed of cirro-stratus, it is not less remarkable and interesting. On each side the heavens were perfectly clear; and the arch of the cloud, if it were such, was a well marked and striking instance of the polar arrangement of cirro-stratus and cirro-cumulus alluded to by Humboldt in his 'Cosmos.' He says, "The connexion of the polar light (aurora) with the most delicate cirrus clouds deserves particular attention, because it shows us the electro-magnetic evolution of light as part of a meteorological process. The magnetism of the earth is here exhibited in its influence on the atmosphere, and the condensation of vapour." The clouds thus influenced by terrestrial magnetism Humboldt calls "polar bands." I have very frequently witnessed, especially while residing at the Kew Observatory, when my attention was more particularly directed to such subjects, long lines or bands of cirrus, cirro-stratus and cirro-cumulus generally affecting a determinate direction, and the arch observed last evening appears to have been such a "polar band." On some occasions I have seen masses of cirro-stratus self-luminous; and it is not a little remarkable that in the eastern portion of the sky the luminous site of the arch was greatest:—so much so as to convey the idea of the brightness being rather superior to the reflection of the moon's rays from the surface of such thin masses of cloud.

Hull, Dec. 30.

WILLIAM RADCLIFFE BURT.

P.S. Can this phenomenon be referred to an electrical stream at right angles, or nearly so, to the magnetic meridian, which in its passage so influences the aqueous vapour as to condense it with a slight evolution of electro-magnetic light?

**Isthmus of Suez Railway and Canal.**—From Alexandria, the line proceeds in a south-eastern direction to Damanhour, passing at short distances from Salamoun, Nadir, Warden, and Kelioub, to Cairo. The proposed route across the Desert, from Cairo to Suez, branches off from the Alexandrian line at Bulah, a few miles north of Cairo, and proceeds nearly parallel with the present Great Hadj route to Suez on the Red Sea. The route of the proposed ship canal commences in the Mediterranean at the mouth of the Tineh, the entrance to the ancient Pelusian Canal, and proceeds in a southern direction to Suez, terminating in vestiges of the ancient canal of Sesostrius or Necho. Mr. Wyld, of Charing Cross, has published a map, in which these routes are traced out.—*Builder*.

**Nimrud Inscriptions.**—Since I addressed you on the 22nd instant, I have found the name of a second king of Israel in the Nimrud inscriptions published by the British Museum. In the south-western palace there is a series of slabs, brought from the centre of the mound, but of later date than the obelisk and the colossal bulls, which are of the age of Jehu. These slabs contain annals of a king, whose name does not appear. Col. Rawlinson stated confidently that he was the Khorsabad king, Sargon; but from comparing the transactions assigned to the same regal years in this series and at Khorsabad, I felt satisfied that he laboured under a mistake. On looking over the names of certain kings who paid tribute in the eighth year of this king's reign (B. M. Pl. 30, 10), I found a name which is decisive on the question.—*Min'ak'h'im'mi Sām'iri'n'āyāi*; that is מנחם ישראל, Menahem of Samaria, masoretically Shēmron. The final *mi* in the king's name is added as a case ending, so that the name exactly corresponds with the Hebrew. This name proves that the slabs belonged to Pul, who is mentioned in 2 Kings xv. 19, 20, as having imposed tribute upon Menahem. He was the predecessor of Sargon, and of a different family; which accounts for his slabs having been removed, and his name having (it is said) been defaced by Esaraddon, the grandson of Sargon, who built this palace. It proves also the identity of the Samirina and the Bit-Khumria of the inscriptions, which I before considered improbable; and the consequent fact that the 27,380 men mentioned in Botta, Pl. 145, l. 12, as having been carried into captivity by Sargon, were Israelites. They appear from the inscription not to have been inhabitants of Samaria itself, but of rural districts or provincial towns. This identifies the deportation spoken of with that in the reign of Pekah, recorded in 2 Kings xv. 29, and attributed to Tiglath-Pileser, who was consequently the same as Sargon, the builder of Khorsabad. I pointed out this identification in my paper on the Khorsabad inscriptions; and I think it inconsistent with Col. Rawlinson's assumption that the Khorsabad king was the Shalmaneser of Scripture. The latter I take to be the son of Sargon, an elder brother, as Semachib, as I mentioned in the paper referred to. I must also dissent from Col. Rawlinson's opinion that the deportation of the Israelites was in the first year of Sargon. The inscription where it is mentioned does not give the chronology of the events which it records, and other inscriptions seem to me to show that it must have occurred at a more advanced period of his reign.

I am, &c. EDW. HINCH.

Killybegh, Co. Down, Dec. 29.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A. C.—W. T. M.—W. B.—An Old Subscriber—received.

D. W. T.—We cannot give this correspondent the information which he seeks.

\* The *ā* at the end of these names, as also at the end of Sarghinā, and probably of Yā'ū'ā, is inflectional.

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